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**WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY Paper Reports
on Soviet Trade Union's Visit**

42000310d Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S
DAILY* in English 30 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Rangoon, 29 Mar—The delegation from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics headed by Mr August Zitmanis, Chairman of the Council of Trade Union of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, currently in Burma under the cultural exchange programme between the two countries, together with Workers Asia-yone Central Body Secretary U Nyunt Thein and Central Executive Committee members, the chairmen and EC members of the Bahan Township and Dagon Township Workers Asiayones, and Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustee alternate member U Nyan Lwin visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 8 am today.

At 10 am, the delegation visited the jute carpet factory in Dawbon Township and it was welcomed and conducted round by the chairman and EC members of the Dawbon Township Workers Asiayone, the factory manager and responsible personnel. The delegation then proceeded to the National Museum at 11 am.

In the evening, Vice-Chairman of the Workers Asiayone Central Body U Kyi Thein hosted a dinner for the Council of the Trade Union of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic delegation at the Karaweik Hall.—
NAB

/9604

**Deputy Agriculture Minister Visits Forestry
Operations**

42000310b Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S
DAILY* in English 28 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Rangoon, 27 Mar—Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Forests U Hlaing Myint, together with responsible personnel of the Forest Department and the Timber Corporation, inspected forestry work and timber milling work in Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions from 22 to 26 March.

The Deputy Minister and party arrived in Mandalay on 22 March and visited the 12,000-ton Saw Mill under construction in Amarapura Township.

The Deputy Minister and party met with saw mill managers and timber shop managers in Mandalay Division in the Timber Project office meeting hall in Mandalay on 23 March and held discussions with them on matters relating to production and sale of sawn timbers and production of sleepers for the Railways Corporation.

Furthermore, they discussed the production and utilization of bio-gas in Mandalay Division and in 16 villages in Myiththa and Madaya Townships before April.

The Deputy Minister and party, together with Sagaing Division People's Council EC member U Tun Maung, inspected the nurseries and forestry work in Myinmu and Chaung-U Townships, the production of sawn timbers of Obo-taung Saw Mill, the Plywood Factory and the No 78 Saw Mill in Monywa Township on 24 March.

The Deputy Minister and party visited the Koebinchaung Dam in Shwebo on 25 March and inspected the Koebinchaung watershed plantation and production and utilization of bio-gas.

On 26 March, the Deputy Minister and party had discussions with Township Party and People's Council functionaries on matters relating to the Yehtwet Nursery of the Forest Department and forest nurseries.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister and party, together with the Sagaing Division People's Council chairman, inspected the nursery of the Forest Department near Sagaing and the plot for constructing the Sagaing Division Timber Corporation Manager's office building.—
NAB

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Editorial on Oil Requirement, Production

42000310c Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S
DAILY* in English 28 Mar 88 p 4

[Excerpt] Fuel oil is the basic requirement in facilitating commodity production, transport and distribution. Production of crude has fallen in the country. The State thus seeks ways to ensure sufficient supply of fuel oil.

The State is undertaking to substitute natural gas, methanol and CNG, compressed natural gas, in place of fuel oil wherever possible. With a view to successfully implementing the projects being undertaken with the foreign loans in time, the State is making arrangements to provide these projects with required fuel oil by importing crude oil with surpluses in foreign project loans. It is also rehabilitating the existing oil wells in order to increase domestic production under long-term programmes. It is making efforts to develop new oil fields.

Regarding off-shore oil exploration work, the "Maydani" oil exploration vessel is carrying out survey work along the Rakhine coastal region. Natural gas deposits have been discovered in the off-shore oil exploration area. However, a long period of time and a huge amount of foreign exchange will be required to produce natural gas.

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Army Reported 'Crushing' Insurgents
42000310a Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S
DAILY in English 27 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Rangoon, 26 Mar—The members of the Tatmadaw (Army), in cooperation with the working people, and together with the Tatmadaw (Air) have been successfully fighting and crushing the insurgents.

The Tatmadaw has been attacking the insurgents under Operation Thurein Tun in Northern Command area, under Operation Aung Hein Moe in North-East Command area, under Operation Kyaw Naing Soe in Eastern Command area, under Operation Zwe Aung Lin in South-East Command area, and under Operation Pyi Nyein Kyaw in Central Command area.

Between 21 March 1987 and 20 March 1988 altogether 3,046 clashes including 35 major battles took place, 592 members of the Tatmadaw gave up their lives for the country and 1,666 were wounded.

As a result of vigilant and active cooperation of the mass of people and operations waged relentlessly and valiantly by members of the Tatmadaw, in major battles/skirmishes 1,688 insurgents were captured dead, 378 were captured alive, and the Tatmadaw seized one 82mm mortar, three 75mm recoilless rifles, 12 60mm mortars, two .5 heavy machineguns, three M7 launchers, three machineguns (medium), two 3.5 launchers, five brown machineguns, two 57mm recoilless rifles, one heavy anti-aircraft machinegun, 1,871 assorted small arms,

8,916 rounds of ammunition for large calibre weapons, 186,543 rounds of ammunition for assorted small arms, 941 assorted mines, 2,469 assorted magazines, 3,709 assorted hand grenades, 1,252 pieces of TNT (soft), 247 plates of TNT, 1,450 feet of TNT wire, 16,105 assorted detonators, 59 communications sets, nine walkie-talkies, seven radio sets, eight transmitter/receiver sets, eight receiving sets, four generators, five battery chargers, three exchange switch-boards, 15 maps, 34 engines, 31 electricity generators, six saw mills, three amplifiers, one stone-cutting machine, one water pump, three rice mills, 25 motor vehicles, four motorcycles, 20 powered vessels, nine duplicating machines, 22 typewriters, three television sets, one video deck, four radio cassettes, two cameras, 23 elephants, 24 horses/mules, 1,451 head of cattle, 412 logs of teak, 600 tons of timber, 6,688 baskets of rice/paddy, about K845,060 worth of contraband, 11,975.40 viss of jade, 17.21 kilos of heroin, 886.13 kilos of opium, K1,139,625 in cash, Indian currency 1,019,900 rupees and Chinese currency 2,280 yuans.

During the Operation period, 569 insurgents returned to the legal fold bringing with them 294 assorted arms.

Likewise, for the safety of the Burma waters, the Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels are on constant patrol and 132 fish-poaching vessels, 111 black-market vessels and 1,409 fish poachers were seized between 21 March 1987 and 20 March 1988. The value of seized vessels, engines and goods is estimated at more than K35.6 million.—NAB

/9604

UK Wants Fiji To Rejoin Commonwealth
42000312b Suva THE FIJI TIMES in English
31 Mar 88 p 1

[Article by John Coomber, of AAP]

[Text] London, (29 Mar)—Britain wants Fiji to rejoin the Commonwealth, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher says.

Mrs Thatcher, who met Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara at 10 Downing Street today, said Britain was touched by Fiji's expressions of continued affection for the Queen.

"It is our most earnest hope that a basis would be found on which Fiji would be able to rejoin the Commonwealth," Mrs Thatcher said.

Her statement came after an hour-long meeting with Ratu Sir Kamisese which the British leader described as very friendly.

Ratu Sir Kamisese is in London for discussions aimed at cementing his country's links with Britain, the Crown and the Commonwealth, of which Fiji's membership ceased when it was declared a republic on 7 October.

British officials said the talks covered all aspects of Fiji's relations with Britain as well as a number of regional issues.

Britain warmly welcomed the Fiji Government's efforts to restore stability and the island nation's economic and general well-being, Mrs Thatcher told Ratu Sir Kamisese.

"We were touched by Ratu Mara's express wish to find a way for the continued affection of the entire people of Fiji to Her Majesty the Queen to be expressed in future," Mrs Thatcher said in a statement.

Britain also wished to restore the closest possible links, she said.

Mrs Thatcher offered Britain's help in the process of drafting a new Fiji constitution and reaffirmed the continuation of British technical assistance and military training programmes.

Ratu Sir Kamisese said he was very impressed by Mrs Thatcher's clear understanding of the situation in Fiji.

The British Prime Minister gave an undertaking that Britain would sympathetically consider any request for increased technical assistance in facilitating Fiji's economic recovery.

Ratu Sir Kamisese later met the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

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Economic Agreement Signed With France
42000312d Suva THE FIJI TIMES in English
8 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] The Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, has signed an economic cooperation agreement worth \$18 million with France.

Under the agreement which was signed in Paris on Wednesday, the French Government will provide Fiji with a development loan of \$7.5 million on special terms.

The loan would carry an interest rate of 3 percent a year, repayable over 30 years, a spokesman in the Prime Minister's office said in Suva yesterday.

The loan would be in addition to the development grant of \$8.5 million which France had already offered to Fiji, he said.

French Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Finance, Edouard Balladur, signed the agreement on behalf of the French Government.

The French Prime Minister, Jacques Chirac had told Ratu Sir Kamisese at their meeting on Tuesday 5 that the economic cooperation agreement was only the beginning of French support of Fiji.

During his official visit to France, Ratu Sir Kamisese also met and had discussions with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jean-Bernard Raimond. The Minister later hosted a lunch in his honour.

"Ratu Sir Kamisese left Paris yesterday for Taiwan on a 5-day visit which is expected to focus on bilateral economic relations between the two countries," the spokesman said.

At the luncheon before leaving France, Ratu Sir Kamisese said he was particularly pleased to be in France to personally convey the sincere gratitude of the government and people of Fiji for France's "generous support in Fiji's greatest hour of need."

Extracts from his speech are published below.

"I have been deeply touched by the fact that although you all have been heavily pre-occupied with preparations for your forthcoming presidential elections, you have spared no efforts in availing yourselves to receive and to welcome us.

"I feel very honoured by this warm demonstration of friendship. I certainly regard this as a clear indication of your government's sincere wish to strengthen your relationships with Fiji.

"On our part, I would like to reciprocate by affirming to you in the strongest possible terms that we in Fiji desire to forge the closest degree of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with your country.

"France is an important Pacific country and we have always welcomed your contribution to regional cooperation through regional programmes and organisations such as the SPC, PIDP, CCOP/SOPAC and the USP. We believe strongly that all these play a vital and equal role in the development of the South Pacific region.

"I can assure you all that Fiji does not belong to that school of thought which has recently been espousing the view that it is only the South Pacific Forum and SPEC which enjoy a unique and unrivalled position of prominence in South Pacific affairs.

"Indeed we in Fiji recognise and welcome the fact that your country, as well as others like the United Kingdom, the EEC countries as a whole, the United States, Canada, Japan and the ASEAN countries, can play a positive and equal role in promoting the economic and social development of Pacific Island countries and in ensuring the security and stability of the region as a whole.

"The agreement we have signed today, in our view, signifies a new stage in the friendship between our two countries. We are most grateful for your readiness to expand your direct relationships with Fiji. We shall do all we can to justify the faith and the confidence you have placed in our country. As friends we can have our differences. But let us keep and maintain our friendship."

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Taukei Movement Expresses Lack of Confidence in Interim Government

42000312a Suva *THE FIJI TIMES* in English
22 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The Taukei Movement wants the Great Council of Chiefs to meet immediately to decide Fiji's future.

The statement from the movement's spokesman, Ratu Meli Vesikula, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola and Mr Jone Veisamasama, said the Fijian people had lost faith and confidence in the interim government.

It called for it to step down and hand over the rein to the Great Council of Chiefs.

It said the Prime Minister's address to the nation last week had done little to "appease the wrath of the indigenous natives."

"As far as we are concerned, Ratu Mara, along with those he could work with, have had 20 years to deliver their promises, but they have failed us miserably."

The statement said the declaration of Fiji as a republic on 7 October last year should have seen the beginning of a new era and leadership.

"The idea of bringing forward leaders from the old era to the new is both nonsensical and impractical and should be corrected forthwith."

On the constitution, the statement said the Great Council of Chiefs had indicated last year that it wanted a truly Fijian constitution, based on Fijian values and Christian principles.

"Such a document will not be greeted with open arms by the rest of the Commonwealth for sure, but if it brings about lasting peace and stability for our people, then surely that should please everyone, including the Commonwealth."

The three deplored the manner in which Cabinet ministers had given themselves "a 125 percent pay rise (from \$16,000 to \$36,000 per annum)," while all other government workers had taken a 15 percent pay-cut, and all government spending was cut by 30 percent.

"Now, why have these ministers allowed themselves this massive rise at this time?" they asked.

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Commentary on Nation's Economy

42000312c Suva *THE FIJI TIMES* in English
5 Apr 88 p 5

[Article by Brian Carson, AAP]

[Text] Brisbane, (31 Mar)—A Griffith University academic believes the Fiji economy is falling apart and its instability could spark yet another coup.

Anthropologist Dr Anthony Van Fossen, a lecturer in the University's Division of Humanities, was in Fiji at the time of the nation's first coup and returned there shortly after the second.

Dr Van Fossen said the Fiji economy was on a massive downhill slide and the nation's internal conflict had been misunderstood and oversimplified by Pacific region neighbours.

"The head of the Reserve Bank in Fiji has commented that the economy suffered a 13 percent downturn last year since the May coup and predicted a 9 percent downturn this year," said Dr Van Fossen.

There was little appreciation of the complexity of the political climate in Fiji.

"The issue was far deeper than simply a conflict between the Fijian and Indian races," he said.

The widely-held view of the conflict as racial was a simplification which did not appreciate the dynamics of the situation.

"There are underlying political and economic forces which do not have a great deal to do with ethnicity," Dr Van Fossen said.

The instability of the situation meant there was a possibility of a third coup.

While the military had a lot of power in Fiji, it was incorrect, he said, to call the coups military because they were not primarily attempts to put soldiers in power.

"Instead there were attempts to restore the uncompromising rule of the indigenous Fijian aristocracy."

Dr Van Fossen said the aristocrats, despite their often substantial investments in the country, would rather be in power in a poverty-stricken country than have a rich country in which they had to relinquish control.

Fijians, he added, had heard "horror stories" of race relations in Australia and had no desire to see themselves as a conquered race.

Proposals to privatise the Posts and Telecommunications networks and tax holidays were being used by the present regime in a bid to get the economy back on the rails.

"The present regime is trying to establish a system which could ensure that power remained in the hands of the Fijian aristocrats."

However, Dr Van Fossen said it was unlikely the government could rule by decree forever.

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Official Describes Split in East Java PDI

42130097b Surabaya SURABAYA POST in Indonesian
16 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] R. Tonny Soenarto, S.H. [Master of Laws], head of the Social and General Training (BINKAT) Subdirector of East Java's Sociopolitical Directorate, asked all members of East Java's PDI [Indonesian Democracy Party] to maintain the PDI's unity and integrity, especially in view of the upcoming MPR [People's Consultative Assembly] general session.

Tonny made that statement when asked to give a response to problems at the East Java PDI's recent anniversary celebrations held in Malang and in Surabaya.

In Tonny's opinion East Java's PDI has been quite stable up to now as a sociopolitical organization in terms of unity and integrity.

Tonny said that since the "Group of 17" is a problem of the central office it should be solved at the central office. "Don't bring the problems of PDI's central office to East Java," he said. East Java's Sociopolitical Directorate will take the position that it will lead from behind. If there is a question about which DPP [Central Executive Committee] to recognize, East Java's Sociopolitical Directorate will clearly stick to what is legal and recognize the PDI's DPP under the leadership of Drs. Suryadi.

Nawawi Soegianto, the treasurer of East Java's PDI, explained that there had been no response to the Group of 17's efforts to influence the organization in East Java. Some people had asked the leaders of East Java's PDI to oppose the DPP's decision No 059 that no DPD [Provincial Executive Committee] or DPC [Branch Executive Committee] chairman could also hold a legislative position at a higher level, i.e. in the DPR RI [Republic of Indonesia Parliament] or in a DPRD I [Provincial Parliament]. In addition, DPR RI members are limited to two consecutive terms of office. However, this decision was opposed by other East Java PDI leaders.

In Malang

The PDI's anniversary, which it was feared would not take place at first, was finally celebrated in Malang. Although it was only approved as a local activity, 30 leaders of other PDI branches in East Java came and listened to speeches by Drs Kwiek Kian Gie at the BKOW [Women's Organizations Coordinating Board] building in Malang and attended a reception at the Hotel Ganesha in Batu.

This anniversary program took another form from that proposed by the secretary of the PDI's East Java DPD in response to similar plans proposed by Chairman Drs Marsoesi.

At the reception Nico Daryanto, the secretary general of the PDI's DPP, urged all PDI members to strengthen the PDI's unity, integrity and brotherhood. He hoped that this would calm down the leaders of PDI's branches who were pressing the PDI's DPP to freeze the East Java PDI led by Marsoesi.

All branches of the PDI in East Java had received telegams and notices about the cancelation of the anniversary celebrations in Malang, but this only increased their curiosity and so they went to Malang. "Even though permission had been cancelled, at least we could meet the PDI's DPP," said a branch leader.

A SURABAYA POST source in Malang said that even when permission had been granted, General Chairman Drs Suryadi decided at first to send Nico Daryanto to Malang in order to preserve stability and peace in East Java. However, branch leaders, who had been arriving in Malang since Saturday evening [13 February], forced the preparations committee to arrange for Nico Daryanto to attend.

"We were determined to uphold the party constitution; it was the DPP that didn't want to support it," said a branch leader emotionally. The General Chairman, Drs Suryadi, is considered too patient and hesitant to take firm steps against those who break with party discipline.

At the suggestion of the preparations committee and of the branch offices the DPP finally "gave in" and sent Nico Daryanto to Malang.

In Surabaya

The PDI's anniversary was also celebrated at the GNI [Indonesian National Building] in Surabaya on Saturday night. At first it was feared that permission would also be withdrawn, and the celebration took place without a speech from Drs Marsoesi, chairman of the East Java DPD.

Dudy Singadilaga, a spokesman for the "Group of 17," arrived at Juanda [Surabaya's airport] at 2 pm on Saturday, according to a PDI source in Surabaya. He and Drs Marsoesi were not allowed to speak at the celebration. These two figures did not receive a mandate from the DPP and Soetam Soekarno did not permit them to attend the celebration because of their connection with the Group of 17.

The source in Malang said that the "Group of 17" had become the "Group of 13" because 4 of its members, I Gusti Ngurah Yuda, Nana Bumena, Mrs Clara Sitompul and Soetardjo Goeritno, had withdrawn. When asked about this, Nico Daryanto said that the DPP did not recognize the "Group of 17" or the "Group of 13." "Even if some problems have arisen," he said, "these are internal matters which will be solved internally."

**PDI 'Younger Generation' Criticizes
Parliamentary Faction**
42130099b Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian
7 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Jakarta, PELITA—The image of the FPDI [Indonesian Democratic Party Faction] in the MPR [People's Consultative Congress] is on the decline among the younger generation, who in the past have put great confidence in the PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party] as the party of Indonesian young people. This decline can be seen in reactions to the way draft legislation, both GBHN [Broad Outline of State Policy] and non-GBHN, was promoted and fought for in the last MPR BP [Executive Board].

This was stated yesterday in a press statement by a group of PDI members in the name of PDI Young Generation. The statement was signed by eight PDI Young Generation people: Drs Syamsi H.S., Lambertus Gaina Dana, Latifu Alie S., Emiel Tuwaidan, Piet da Cuhna, Agus Salim, Kaspul Anwar, and Edy Sukirman.

The reason given by PDI young people for the declining image of the FPDI in the MPR was the FPDI's lack of preparation and thoroughness in its role in promoting various state and national issues in the SU [General Assembly] of the MPR. "That resulted in differing viewpoints among members of the faction," they said.

Furthermore, they said, the FPDI was not persistent in establishing positions and viewpoints, as seen in the way it unilaterally withdrew its proposals. "But in its general statement to the MPR SU on 3 March 1988, the FPDI again submitted issues it had withdrawn in the MPR BP, like the general election implementation issue," they declared.

They stated the FPDI was uncertain and confused in handling non-GBHN draft legislation, as in the vice-presidential candidacy matter, and did not know what to do. As an example, they cited the proposal by 14 FPDI members, who had long made known their intention to nominate Sudharmono, SH [Master of Laws], for vice president. Nevertheless, the general chairman of the PDI DPP [Central Executive Council] and the leaders of the FPDI in the MPR cynically ignored them. When the FKP [GOLKAR Faction], FUD [Regional Representatives Faction], and FABRI [Armed Forces Faction] "trifaction" emphatically nominated and supported Sudharmono, SH, as candidate for the vice-presidency, however, the PDI DPP, through its general chairman and with various justifications and weak excuses, seconded the "trifaction" nomination, the PDI Young Generation statement declared.

They said these things show there is not agreement between the words and deeds of the FPDI leadership in the MPR and of the general chairman of the PDI DPP. This proves that the leadership of the PDI DPP under

Drs Soerjadi and of the MPR FPDI as chaired by Nico Daryanto does not have authority and self-confidence. That never happened in prior MPR SU's in 1973, 1978, and 1983.

Confidence

For various reasons, the PDI Young Generation believes the leadership of the PDI DPP under General Chairman Drs Soerjadi and Secretary General Nico Daryanto has not had authority in party ranks and did not hold clear concepts and viewpoints in the Third Congress or in national development.

In his reaction to disappointment that has arisen among young people of the PDI, Nico Daryanto said at the DPR in Senayan, Jakarta, yesterday that the PDI's efforts naturally cannot satisfy everyone. This is true not only of the PDI but also of other political parties and of GOLKAR, he said.

Nevertheless, Nico will make the PDI even better, notwithstanding the many PDI supporters who are now dissatisfied. Confidence will be regained. There are still opportunities for the future through its programs, he said.

Turning to other subjects, Nico does not fear loss of support in the 1992 general elections, especially considering it is still 5 years away. When asked how many young people have indicated dissatisfaction with DPP stances, such as in Yogyakarta, Nico merely replied, "We have not received a report."

6942

'Silence' of PDI Parliamentary Faction Explained
42130097c Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian
25 Feb 88 p 12

[Text] It is a good thing for members of the PDI's [Indonesian Democracy Party] parliamentary faction to remain silent for 1 year in order to delve into the institution's problems. If they do this for a year and then continue to be silent and not speak as the people's representatives, let the press wipe them out.

Ipik Asmasubrata, deputy chairman of the PDI faction, stressed this in response to reporters' questions at a press conference yesterday afternoon at the DPR [Parliament] in Senayan, Jakarta, about the PDI faction's efforts to project its image. Compared with past periods he thinks that at the present time the PDI faction is less vocal and is cool in facing up to problems that are developing now.

When it was asked why the PDI faction has been cool and silent since 1 October 1987, when DPR members were inaugurated, Marbun, S.H., [Master of Laws], a

member of the PDI faction, explained, "It is best for us to be silent and not talk just for the sake of talking. Besides that, we've only been DPR members for a few months."

During the PDI faction's press conference led by the faction's chairperson Fatimah Ahmad, S.H., there were a lot of suggestions from reporters about why the faction has been silent and cool towards various problems during this period. She admitted that those suggestions, such as the fact that the faction did not yet have technical experts for various fields such as agriculture, were correct. Those suggestions were one consideration in the faction's efforts to improve its image in the future.

Obstacle

Fatimah, who was accompanied by the PDI faction's entire leadership, Marsoesi, Marcil Beding, Yahya Nasution and others, emphasized that the PDI faction is continuing in its efforts to respond to appeals from various sides, including those from the press, to improve the council's image. This will be done by directing members to increase their influence and to put their minds to the problems faced by various commissions.

Fatimah, like other members, admits that the PDI's faction has not yet achieved any outstanding results. This is especially true for new members, who obviously need a lot of time to become acquainted with parliamentary activities.

"In addition," Fatimah said, "new members are faced with various obstacles, such as, limitations on their time, activities in two areas at the same time, etc." However, this will not lessen the PDI's determination to prepare itself to keep watch over and to improve the council's image."

9846

Naro Welcomes Former Members Returning to PPP

42130099f Jakarta *SUARA KARYA* in Indonesian
21 Mar 88 p 9

[Excerpt] Jakarta, *SUARA KARYA*—Dr H.J. Naro, SH [Master of Laws], has two messages for regional PPP [Development Unity Party] leaders throughout Indonesia. First, he asks regional leaders to announce to the community the results of the MPR [People's Consultative Congress] SU [General Assembly] and to protect those results, including decisions on the president and vice president. Second, he asks that regional leaders build oneness and integrity within the PPP and always keep the door open to people who want to return "home" to the PPP.

Naro presented his messages in Jakarta yesterday afternoon, Sunday, in a speech closing the National Meeting of the PPP DPP [Central Executive Council], MPP

[Central Deliberative Council], and MPR FPP [PPP Faction] with PPP DPW's [Regional Executive Councils] from all over Indonesia. The National Meeting began on Saturday afternoon [19 March]. The DPP and MPR FPP had reported on the results of FPP efforts in the recent SU.

Naro declared the PPP had agreed to accept all decisions of the congress, even those made by the mechanism of voting. "We are not an opposition party. We must do what the congress decides. We must all be able to cooperate with the government, ABRI, and other socio-political forces. We have also elected the president and vice president. Therefore, we must extend our hands to help them make the development of the Republic of Indonesia a success," declared Naro with oratorical style.

With regard to his second message, Naro admitted there were in the past unpleasant matters resulting from a certain situation and from "miscommunication." Naro then stated emphatically and in a high-pitched voice that "beginning today" the terms "rotten egg" and "deflate" no longer exist in the PPP family. "We call to our brothers: My house is open. I know you can bear to lodge with other people for only 2 weeks at the longest. But if you stay in your own house, remember this saying: Although it's raining gold at other people's houses, it's better to have a rain of stones at your own house," Naro said with enthusiastic rhetoric.

He called on regional leaders to open their doors widely to people who want to return to the PPP.

In reply to a reporter's question after the closing program as to whether by his statement he was calling on NU [Nahdatul Ulama] members to return to the PPP, Naro said he had not mentioned the NU. "The point is, there are many people who say they want to come back to the PPP, in West Java and Central Java as well as in East Java," Naro said.

Naro reported in his speech on the process in the SU whereby he was nominated as vice president, but he did not explain the background of it or the process through which the nomination was withdrawn.

6942

Scholar Lauds ABRI's Neutral Attitude in MPR Session

42130099e Jakarta *KOMPAS* in Indonesian
21 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Jakarta, *KOMPAS*—ABRI increasingly demonstrated its neutrality toward sociopolitical organizations (ORPOL's) during the SU [General Assembly] of the 1988 MPR [People's Consultative Congress]. The ABRI neutrality made possible the appearance of positive dynamics among several factions and openness in discussing MPR draft legislation.

M. Dawam Rahardjo, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Religious and Philosophic Studies Institute (LSAF), said this to KOMPAS last week in Jakarta.

Increasingly Neutral

Dawam Rahardjo feels that the increasingly neutral ABRI attitude toward ORPOL's made possible, among other things, the rise of vice-presidential candidates from the parties. It is hoped that ABRI's neutrality will encourage more healthy and democratic national political development in the future.

In the 1987 general elections, ABRI began to take a neutral stand toward organizations running in the elections, which meant it kept its distance from GOLKAR. Thus ABRI did not automatically support GOLKAR directly.

ABRI's neutrality, according to Dawam Rahardjo, also had an effect on congress sessions. That could be seen in the atmosphere in which differences of opinion were discussed, including some of the points in MPR draft legislation that were decided by majority vote.

These positive political developments could support the implementation of Pancasila democracy, although such implementation appears limited to MPR sessions only. Therefore, continuous efforts toward putting Pancasila into practice are still needed.

Pancasila democracy probably can be implemented well if the MPR as an institution becomes more authoritative, if the efficiency of the political parties (PPP [Development Unity Party] and PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party]) is improved to be more like GOLKAR's, and if the system for electing members of the MPR becomes more democratic.

The MPR will become more authoritative when it is able to handle the aggregate interests of the people. It is therefore important for the MPR to note aspirations that are developing among the press, intellectuals, universities, research institutes, and other information resources.

ORPOL's, then, will become efficient when they have liberty to select their leaders and formulate their programs. A small party can be strong if it is efficient. It is hoped, therefore, that interference in internal party affairs will steadily decline for the sake of supporting implementation of Pancasila democracy.

Political parties now do not appear very effective or efficient. Consequently, they often do not have the materials or data they need for discussing issues in sessions of the DPR [Parliament] or MPR. The parties also appear not to have access to some circles in the community.

That may be why political parties did not appear as prepared in the MPR SU as GOLKAR. The government, of course, prepared many of the materials for the SU, but GOLKAR had a big part in it.

Nevertheless, Dawam Rahardjo considered it a positive development that the parties presented a number of proposals worthy of attention, such as the inclusion of principles of honesty and fairness, in addition to the LUBER (direct, public, free, secret) principle, in the draft legislation on general elections and participation of political parties in implementing and overseeing elections.

Maintaining Unity

According to Dawam Rahardjo, the 1988 MPR SU demonstrated a number of positive developments in national political life. Among them was the appearance of differences of opinion in congress discussions, but the differences of opinion developed in the MPR SU alone and were not taken outside the sessions.

In addition, ideology was no longer made a cause for differences of opinion, for such differences could destroy national unity. Unity and integrity of the nation continue to be maintained.

Another was the thorough preparation of MPR SU materials beforehand, thus preventing meaningless debates. Such preparation still appeared to be more on the executive side, particularly in the preparation of materials for the draft 1988 GBHN [Broad Outline of State Policy]. In the future, executive preparations should be matched by the preparedness of the MPR itself for the MPR SU.

Because of the various positive developments, it is hoped the integrity of the nation will be better protected. Moreover, the GBHN will be guidance for implementing development policies. "It remains a question, however, as to how far the people can oversee the implementation of development that is based on the GBHN," said Dawam Rahardjo.

That question arises because the announced development program sometimes meets obstacles that have been created. For example, it was agreed that the essence of national development is the development of Indonesians as people, which is strengthened through P4 [Pancasila Indoctrination] upgrading. Then PORKAS [soccer lottery] (now Athletic Prize Contribution), which can harm the mentality of the people, was started, said Dawam Rahardjo.

NU Youth Organizations Change Names, Reject Merger

42130097a Surabaya *SURABAYA POST* in Indonesian
1 Feb 88 p 1

[Excerpts] Jombang: In a decision taken last night IPNU (Student League of the NU [Muslim Scholars Organization]) and IPPNU (Female Students League of the NU) firmly rejected a merger. At a meeting of the commission for organization they stated that they were determined to continue to remain independent and that they would use the name IPNU-IPPNU. The only change is that the expansion of the acronym will delete the word "student."

At the meeting of the commission a decision was forced to a vote witnessed by all 12 of IPNU and IPPNU's parties. There were 108 participants from all over Indonesia at this congress, IPNU's 10th and IPPNU's 9th. There were 45 votes in favor of a merger and 86 votes against. The other 16 voters, called dissidents, abstained.

As of yesterday IPNU has officially become the Muslim Scholars Youth League (IPNU).

Pioneer Girls

IPPNU continued its meeting through the night. This morning a consensus was finally reached that IPPNU should stand for Muslim Scholars Pioneer Girls League. However, IPPNU's spokeswoman Zakiyah Asegaf corrected that statement several times during the plenary meeting.

"I'm sorry; there was a misprint. It should have been Muslim Scholars Girls League and not Muslim Scholars Pioneer Girls League," she said to thunderous applause. "It's true; that was a misprint. We were groggy, you know," she said to the *SURABAYA POST*.

9846

Defense Minister Interviewed on Soldiership Bill

42130097f Jakarta *TEMPO* in Indonesian
27 Feb 88 pp 22, 23

[Interview with S. Poniman, minister of defense and security by reporters Bambang Harymurti and Diah Purnomowati; 20 February, at Soekarno-Hatta Airport]

[Text] The process of preparing an amendment to law No 20/1982 and the soldiership bill before the DPR [Parliament] is very difficult. It is interesting that the F-KP [the Functional Groups' faction] and not the F-ABRI [Armed Forces faction] has been making many suggestions. Following is an interview between reporters Bambang Harymurti and Diah Purnomowati with Minister of Defense and Security Poniman. The interview took place at Soekarno-Hatta Airport last Saturday after the minister had seen PNG's [Papua New Guinea] Minister of Defense James L. Pokasui off. [Question]

What is the goal of the soldiership bill? [Answer] It is to implement articles 21 and 22 of law No 20/1982, the Basic Provisions for Indonesia's Defense and Security. Article 21 regulates the system of recruitment and article 22 states the way to obtain reserves for the TNI [National Army]. [Question] At first, it was supposed to be approved on 19 December, and then it was postponed until 22 February. What was the problem? [Answer] There wasn't any problem; it was just that the opportunity to do it arose. The bill itself has been ready for 3 years. We hope that it can be made into law immediately. But that depends on when the government can send it over to the DPR and when the DPR can have a session about it. [Question] What lies behind the wish to change the retirement age? [Answer] It is that officers over 55 are the most experienced. We want to be able to take advantage of this experience. But we must be selective in using an officer over the age of 55. If he is really needed because he still has a lot of potential and there is a place for him, he will be given the chance to serve until he is 60. [Question] Is this being done so that the generation of 1945 can serve longer? [Answer] Not true! Not true, not true! The generation of 1945 is happy to carry out its duties under the time limitations established by law. We really believe in the next generation. If we don't, who will? [Question] Why is the F-KP and not the F-ABRI making a lot of suggestions? [Answer] That is the right of both factions. Just go and ask them. Don't ask me! I don't know...(laughter). [Question] When the second bill was forwarded to the president, what did he object to? [Answer] The president didn't have any objections. The president's job is to look at it and examine it. The Department of Defense and Security doesn't just make a proposal and then the president instructs that it be sent to the DPR. That is impossible. First the president and then the DPR examine it. The president has no objections. We have usually worked on it first so that it's in order when it's in the president's hands. It's better than if the SETKAB [cabinet secretary] or the SETNEG [state secretary] examine it to see if it conforms to the law or if it doesn't or whatever. That's the way that parliamentary bills are prepared, you know. [Question] The president reads it himself? [Answer] No question! Of course! [Question] Are you satisfied with these two bills? [Answer] Yes. I can accept them because they are what the people want and everyone is in agreement on them.

9846

Sudomo Discourages Income Disparity in Foreign Companies

42130097d Jakarta *ANGKATAN BERSENJATA* in Indonesian
25 Feb 88 p 12

[Text] Minister of Manpower Sudomo has asked foreign companies to guard against disparities in income between foreign and Indonesian workers in the same company. Increasingly large disparities are not only unfair but can also result in social unrest and can disturb national stability.

The minister made this statement after delivering 12 Company Regulations (PP) in Denpasar on Tuesday [23 February]. The 12 companies which received PP's authorized by the Department of Labor are profit-sharing contractors working in cooperation with PERTAMINA [National Gas and Oil Company] in exploring for oil in Java, Sulawesi and in the Moluccas.

Sudomo hopes that income equalization can be realized as part of the effort to increase employees' welfare. Therefore, large disparities in income between executives and employees, whether foreigners or Indonesians, should be avoided.

He also made mention of commitments to increase human potential training and to prepare skilled local workers through training programs and technology transfer. "Company executives must organize explicit training programs and put them into effect seriously and responsibly," he said.

The Company Regulations authorized by the Department of Manpower state the rights and obligations of the company's executives and employees. They also state conditions of employment and they regulate solutions to problems arising from disputes between entrepreneurs and their employees.

Djumardi Djukardi, chairman of the BKKA (Foreign Contractor Coordinating Board), explained that there are now 31 profit-sharing contractors in Indonesia. The following have already received PP's: 6 for work in Kalimantan and vicinity and 12 for work in Java and the eastern part of Indonesia; 10 more were granted PP's in Medan today. A team formed by the BKKA is putting together three additional PP's. These will be forwarded to the Department of Manpower for authorization.

9846

Economists Recommend Debt Rescheduling

4213009d Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian
21 Mar 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Jakarta, SUARA KARYA—The government has repeatedly stated its policy of not rescheduling foreign debts that fall due. A number of economists interviewed by SUARA KARYA, however, continue to hope that the Indonesian Government will be realistic and honest in facing this matter. Because interest and installments on Indonesian debts have indeed become a heavy burden to the government, rescheduling is necessary to afford the government an opportunity to deal with domestic economic problems.

In view of the current domestic economic situation, Soetjipto Wirosardjono, deputy chairman of the Central Statistics Bureau (BPS) said it would not be a "great sin" if the Indonesian Government were to ask lenders to reconsider the debts. Former Minister of Finance Frans

Seda feels restructuring alone is not enough for dealing with Indonesia's present debt problem. Restructuring must be accompanied by postponement of payment on debts that fall due.

Adi Sasono, director of the Development Studies Institute (LSP), thinks the willingness of the Indonesian Government to make timely payment of interest and installments on its debts should be appreciated. It is clear, however, that such payment reduces its capability to expand investments, which are much needed to cope with the explosion of job seekers and to enable expansion of nonoil exports. "The debt problem and the threat of unemployment are in fact equally great and pressing, and the government should be fair and honest in this," he said.

On the other hand, Dr A.T. Birowo, staff specialist for the minister of agriculture, is of the opinion that efforts to soften "service payments" make room for laziness in pursuing development. He admits that in the present period of tight foreign exchange such action would give "breathing room" in the sense of enhancing capability for domestic investment. If this action were prolonged, however, there would be a danger of lulling the national economy to sleep, he said. "Therefore, I feel the belt-tightening strategy may be more operational in the long-term interests of economic development," he said.

Widjojo's Opinion

With regard to the foreign debt problem, Soetjipto Wirosardjono recalled the views of Indonesian economic elder Prof Dr Widjojo Nitiasastro, who is known as the one who planned the national economy and its expansion to present levels. In a visit to Japan for talks with countries making loans to Indonesia, Soetjipto said, the former MENKO EKUIN [Coordinating Minister for Economics, Finance, and Industry] and chairman of the National Development Planning Board (BAPPENAS) asked that intercountry loans be treated the same as loans made by banks to their clients.

By that he meant both lenders and borrowers must be willing to accept risk. If the borrower turns out to be unable to repay on time, the lender must be prepared to bear risk by considering the debt now due to be a new loan made under conditions in effect at that moment; or he may permit postponement of payments; or he may eliminate the loan all together. "Even an elimination of the loan does not automatically mean a loss, for that loss can be covered by other sources that he financed," he said.

"In a difficult economic situation like the present one, it would not be a 'great sin' if the government were to ask for reconsideration of Indonesian debts, because payment postponement is actually very common in business," he said.

According to Soetjipto, the burden of interest and installments on Indonesian foreign debts has driven up the debt service ratio (DSR) to an unsafe level. Therefore, if the government "stubbornly" adheres to the debt repayment schedule, it will be acting unfairly toward the Indonesian people.

Frans Seda expressed a similar opinion. "Apart from the question whether the Indonesian Government is able to keep its agreements, it must be admitted that our DSR has reached a disturbing level. The burden of debt now due makes it hard for us to take steps to reactivate the national economy. Thus, the government must do something lest it neglect its responsibility to ensure the credibility of the nation," he said.

According to Seda, the restructuring of foreign debt is not enough, for restructuring means continuing addition to Indonesian foreign indebtedness, although possibly on easier terms. What is absolutely needed is a postponement of payments, or even a stopping of payments for a certain period. "That doesn't mean we will not pay at all," he said.

Seda asked the government to be realistic in dealing with the problem of such great foreign indebtedness and with the current totally unclear monetary situation.

Investment

The postponement of foreign debt payments means provision not only of financial leeway for the Indonesian Government but also of greater room for domestic investments overall, including those from the private sector. Such postponement will allay the fears of potential investors that supplies of raw materials from abroad could be halted by large deficits in the current account.

It is hoped this assurance will encourage domestic and foreign investors to put their capital in Indonesia.

6942

East Timor Governor Denies Food Shortage *42130099a Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 4 Mar 88 p 3*

[Text] Jakarta, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA—East Timor Governor Engr Mario Vegas Carrascalao denied foreign press reports of famine in his region, for his province will have a surplus of 50,000 tons of corn from the harvest now under way.

In an interview with ANTARA on Thursday [3 March] between plenary sessions of the MPR [People's Consultative Congress] General Assembly at the MPR/DPR [Parliament] Building, the East Timor governor said the youngest of Indonesia's provinces needs only about 50,000 tons per year.

Corn is the basic food for most of the people of East Timor and East Nusa Tenggara.

The harvest now being gathered by farmers throughout East Timor is expected to total about 100,000 tons. Thus, East Timor will have a surplus of about 50,000 tons, according to Governor Carrascalao.

"How could our people be suffering hunger in the midst of an abundant harvest of their own food?" the governor asked.

He said he did not understand the purpose of the foreign press reports published in Europe.

He said the government in fact is now preparing to buy the surplus. "I have ordered the DOLOG [Logistics Depot] in Dili to go into the field to buy the excess farm production," he said.

6942

Minister Comments on Shrinking Farm Land Acreage

42130097e Jakarta PELITA in Indonesia 26 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Minister of Agriculture Engr. Achmad Affandi believes that there should be a controlled decrease in rice acreage but that production per hectare should be increased. In order to achieve a balanced economy the increasingly large number of people employed in food production should be curbed by shifting them over to employment in other sectors.

Affandi stated this opinion to reporters after he delivered his final report as minister of agriculture in the Fifth Development Cabinet to President Soeharto at the Bina Graha [president's residence] yesterday.

Rice acreage has, in fact, been decreasing steadily as a result of using land for roads, factories and housing, etc. The minister said that there should be a controlled decrease until 7 million hectares remain in the year 2000. This means a 2.8 million hectare decrease from this year's figure.

The minister said that the important thing is to increase per-hectare rice production so that the 7 million hectares can produce 37 million tons of rice.

Affandi also asked for "forgiveness for his failure" to curb the growth of employment in the agricultural sector. The agricultural sector is still a very large area for employment. Affandi said that this was perhaps because other sectors, such as, industry, service, trade, etc., were still unable to absorb the growth in the work force completely.

The number of workers in food production, in fact, decreased from more than 19 million in 1975 to 17.77 million in 1985. However, in the same period the number of people employed in the agricultural sector as a whole went up to 35 million, an increase of 30.7 million.

Affandi said that agricultural quality has not improved as much as expected because a large number of new workers have entered the agricultural sector.

9846

New Irrigation Works Expand Food Production
42130099c Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian
14 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[Text] Jakarta, PELITA—During the 4 years from 1984-85 to 1987-88, the construction of irrigation networks has made possible the irrigation of 194,774 hectares out of a targeted area of 471,552 hectares, Drs Suprodjo, chief of public relations for the Department of Public Works, said on Saturday [12 March] in Jakarta.

He said irrigation network construction supports the program of creating new paddy fields that use technical irrigation to replace farmland used for buildings or other facilities.

Thus, expansion of food production can continue, through both intensive and extensive use of land and by efforts to change planting patterns from rice-secondary crops, to rice-rice-rice, or rice-rice-secondary crops.

Financing of the irrigation network construction was done through APBN [State Budget] funds totaling 370.676 billion rupiahs and \$413.194 million in foreign aid.

Other development in the irrigation sector during the same period consisted of repairs and expansion of irrigation for 281,049 hectares of paddy fields, for which the target was 277,547 hectares.

The cost of irrigation repairs and expansion from 1984-85 to 1987-88 reached 235.182 billion rupiahs in APBN funds and \$217.93 million in foreign aid.

Those repairs covered the primary and tertiary networks in a number of paddy field areas in Indonesia, primarily in areas where there are streams, said Drs Suprodjo.

Besides expansion of irrigation facilities, other efforts in the irrigation sector have included the development of swampland so that it can be used for farming. During the last 4 years, 165,519 hectares of swampland out of a targeted area of 331,000 hectares have been developed.

The development of swampland during the last 4 years has cost 54.93 billion rupiahs in APBN funds, plus \$28.86 million. It is hoped this swampland development will in the future add to farmland capable of growing food crops.

6942

Minister Says Communist Terrorist Threat on Thai Border Decreasing

42130095a Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 10 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 9 February—Minister of Defense Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said on 9 February that the number of communist terrorists operating on the Malaysia-Thailand border area has decreased in view of continuing operations by the Malaysian and Thai armies.

He said that at present there are only about 1,000 members of the Malayan Communist Party and its front groups, compared to between 2,000 and 3,000 terrorists during the 1970's.

Cooperation between the two countries included joint operations at the end of the 1970's and, recently, joint movements. That is, the two countries hunt terrorists in their respective territories at the same time. This was stated at a press conference regarding the 32d Joint Border Commission meeting, which will be held in Bangkok on 11 February.

Minister of Defense Rithauddeen praised the terrorist surrender program carried on by the Thai side which he said was rather impressive. However, he said that Malaysia will not imitate it because it has its own program.

He said: "We have our own way of doing this. The terrorists may surrender to the Malaysian side, but they should go through a rehabilitation program like other terrorists who have previously surrendered."

Rithauddeen said that this meeting, among other things, has the objective of planning and approving cooperation between the two countries in wiping out the remnants of the communist terrorists in the border area, in addition to cooperation in the social and economic sector and stopping smuggling.

He said that smuggling, particularly of firearms and drugs, has steadily decreased following the construction of a fence and wall from Cuping, State of Perlis, to Lapangan Nenering, in Nenering Sub District, Keruh District, State of Perak.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense said that Rithauddeen will be the chairman of the Malaysian delegation to the Joint Border Commission meeting. It will consist of about 25 officials, including Gen Tan Sri Mohamad Hashim Mohamad Ali, commander of the Malaysian Army.

The meeting, which is held once a year, alternating between Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, will be jointly chaired by Minister of Defense Rithauddeen and Air Chief Marshal Panieng Kantarat of Thailand.

PM Calls for Improving Relations With Singapore

42130094c Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 8 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] Singapore, 7 February—Leaders of Malaysia and Singapore need to make more of an effort to understand each other's problems, according to First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Speaking on 6 February to a group of Malaysian reporters who are visiting Singapore, he said that the two countries need to try to avoid the occurrence of incidents which may create tension in relations between the two countries.

He said: "Unfortunately, incidents like this still take place. We only hope that they will not occur again."

He added: "That will happen, perhaps not during the next 5 years, but there will be some which will be forgotten."

Goh said that if the two countries understand each other's problems, they can try to develop improved cooperation, particularly in the trade sector.

He added: "Malaysian problems are like our problems, but they differ in many ways. If we think alike, we will be aware of the sensitive areas which could worsen our relations."

Bilateral relations between Malaysia and Singapore were damaged in 1986, following the visit of Israeli President Chaim Herzog to Singapore. In 1987 controversy arose regarding the position of the Malay community in Singapore in the Singapore Armed Forces. Controversy also arose when a small detachment of the Singapore Army entered the Johore River. Goh said that Singapore's neighbors are important to the country, and "we also want them to feel the same toward us."

He said that should the economic situation of Singapore's neighbors deteriorate and should tension develop and political instability occur in one of the neighboring countries, in any case it will affect Singapore. He added: "The same is also true should the Singapore economy decline. This would affect Indonesia and, of course, Malaysia in particular."

Goh said that increased efforts need to be made to bring younger leaders in the two countries closer together. He added: "Of course, we need to hold more private meetings in which we will be able to understand each other better."

He emphasized that the press can also play a role in bringing the peoples and leaders of the two countries together. In any case he noted that Malay newspapers in Malaysia often carry articles and columns which present a picture to their readers that Singapore is "a bad

neighbor." He said that at the same time the Singapore media did not carry "bad" articles about Malaysia, and "we will not allow them to do so."

05170

DAP Chief Criticizes Restriction of Private Visits to China

42050016a Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 13 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] Dr Chen Man Hin, president of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], today criticized the Malaysian Government for still imposing restrictions on private visits to China by Malaysian citizens.

Dr Chen was rebutting the argument published in newspapers of Zainal Abidin Sulong, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The DAP chief described Zainal Abidin's reasoning as a backward way of doing things that the China-visit restrictions are still deemed necessary because the PRC has not announced its renunciation of support to Malaysian communists. He pointed out that Malaysia's neighboring countries, such as Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines, have already allowed their citizens to visit China freely.

Dr Chen pointed out that Zainal Abidin's second argument does not hold water either, because the PRC has proclaimed that it no longer recognizes dual nationality, unlike the British Government which still does. Therefore, it is easy for the Malaysian Government to control its citizens, without affecting the interrelationships among Malaysia's nationalities. Consequently, there is no logic in the Malaysian Government's arguments, and it should permit its citizens to make visits to China without restrictions.

9300/6091

Paper Comments on Mahathir's Trips to Thailand, Burma

42050016f Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 24 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Prime Minister Visits Thailand and Burma"]

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir day before yesterday began his 4-day official visit to Thailand and on Thursday will proceed to Rangoon where he will stay for 3 days by way of reciprocating Burma's Prime Minister Maung Maung Kha's trip to our country in early July last year. Thanks to his appropriate handling of the aftermath of the litigation filed by some UMNO members and his success in obtaining the registration for the New UMNO, the prime minister had firmly restored the position of his party and government. His visits

overseas not only display his full confidence in our domestic situation but also the importance he attaches to our relationships with neighboring countries.

Indeed, Thailand and Malaysia are neighboring countries with common land and sea borders, and our relations may be described as close. Leaders of both governments often visit each other's country to foster mutual understanding and strengthen cooperation. Last September, Thailand's prime minister, General Prem Tinsulanon, visited our country for 2 days and held talks with Prime Minister Dr Mahathir in Kuantan, which mainly resulted in the settlement of the fishery dispute involving fishermen of both countries, particularly the arrest of Thai fishermen found poaching in our waters. The two prime ministers also jointly presided over a cooperation plan for deepsea fishing formulated by private companies of both countries. Not only will this cooperation curtail misunderstandings arising out of fishing disputes, but also pave the way further for economic cooperation between the two nations.

For many years past, it may be said that there has been close and continuous cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand in coping with communists on the common frontiers, while contacts in tourism, import-export trade and other economic fields have been incessant. In addition to the bilateral relations, both countries maintain identical viewpoints on ASEAN and other international matters and in coping with problems encountered by developing countries, such as the marketing of tropical produce and primary products. Recently, however, the two countries had conflicting ideas concerning the fishery problem, only because of different interpretations on each other's economic rights within the 320-kilometer limit, which led to Thai fishermen being arrested within what Malaysia claims as Malaysian waters.

To solve this and other bilateral problems, both countries adopted a realistic attitude by forming a joint commission in June last year. This commission held a meeting in Kuala Lumpur early this month, attended by the foreign ministers and their respective delegations. After 2 days of discussions, the commission reached a 13-point agreement on cooperation involving trade, imposition of taxes, tourism, the economy and anti-drug trafficking. But no agreement could be reached concerning the controversial fishery problem, so it was decided that another meeting be convoked in the future.

As differing opinions still exist about the fishery problem, and in view of other complicated maritime problems piled one upon another, it is necessary to make further first-hand exploration and delineation. Although the two foreign ministers and other officials can negotiate further to solve this difficult problem, the satisfactory settlement reached by the two prime ministers at their talks in Chiang Mai this time—which was a follow-up to their mutual understanding achieved in their Kuantan

meeting last September—will serve as a big help. The conclusion of this fishery problem will wipe out the last obstacle to the close cooperation between the two countries.

As regards the prime minister's first visit to Burma, although this country is located further away from our country and is not an ASEAN member, Malaysian-Burma cooperation in the economic and technical fields has always been good. For many years past, Burmese government officials have undergone training in our country, and Burmese doctors and medical experts are practicing here. In the economic field, though the two-way trade volume is small, it possesses good potential for development. The prime minister is particularly interested in strengthening cooperation among developing countries to evade being controlled by industrialized nations. Burma's Prime Minister Maung Maung Kha's reaction to the prime minister's idea was favorable.

Burma is located within the drug-producing "golden triangle." The prime minister, in his capacity as chairman of the International Anti-Narcotics Conference, realizes that he must win Burma's cooperation in order to carry out the conference's anti-narcotics resolution. As a matter of fact, Burma has already responded to our anti-narcotics efforts by carrying out death penalties on persons found guilty of drug trafficking and by energetically eradicating poppy fields in Burmese highlands. In addition to strengthening the economic cooperation between the two countries, the prime minister's visit to Burma will contribute to his international anti-narcotics efforts.

9300/6091

Ghafar Denies PM Used Force To Gain Support
42130096a Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay
12 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 11 February—Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba has stated that the prime minister has the firm support of all groups in the community to continue leading the country.

Speaking to 500 leaders of the Malay community in Western Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 11 February, he said: "All of this support shows the world that the government is now stable." The community leaders later agreed to support the leadership of the prime minister and the deputy prime minister.

The deputy prime minister also denied a foreign newspaper report which charged that the prime minister had forced members of Parliament to sign a motion giving him authority to continue to lead the country.

He said: "At least two-thirds of the members of Parliament support the prime minister. They have expressed their support in meetings with the prime minister or by sending him telegrams or letters. I understand that they will also meet the prime minister at his home on 14 February."

Ghafar said that members of Parliament are a responsible group who are aware of the need to maintain national unity.

He said: "I regard this charge as a petty matter." However, he did not give the name of the foreign newspaper.

Regarding the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] question, Ghafar said that there was no deception involved in the elections for the top leadership of the party, which were held on 24 April 1987.

He said: "What led to UMNO's being declared illegal as an organization was a technical problem which involved 30 UMNO branches which were not registered. This action was based on the Societies Act, which outlaws an organization if it is found that it has branches which are not registered." He said: "This decision astonished all members of UMNO. However, as members of a party which respects the law, it is proper for them to accept the decision as a fact. They also need to extend their confidence to the national leadership at this time to do everything to save the party, which is now in an 'intensive care unit.'"

He also expressed regret at the action of those who have proposed the establishment of UMNO Malaysia, a new party.

He said: "This group has never discussed with us their desire to organize this party, although it is very necessary to dissuade 'UMNO' members from continuing to split up. By means of discussions we may avoid taking action which is in conflict with and which may shame the Malay community."

He said that former members of UMNO need to respect the principles of democracy in the process of electing their leaders.

He said: "In a democracy, the leader is elected by a vote. The person who receives the most votes is the winner. This decision needs to be respected. If this process is not followed, the Malay community will return to a state of confusion. In the past Malay leaders were capable of going to war with each other in order to gain power. However, it was fighting of that kind which led to the weakness of the Malay nation, which later led to colonial interference. We certainly do not want things like that to happen again at this time."

05170

Status of UMNO Since Ruling of Illegality
*42130094a Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in
Malay 8 Feb 88 p 1*

[By Rozaid Abdul Rahman and Badrul Hisham Aziz]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 7 February—Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba declared on 7 February that those persons elected to the UMNO [United Malay National Organization] Supreme Council before the party was declared illegal have the greatest right to lead the Malay community at present.

Speaking at a meeting with an UTUSAN MALAYSIA representative at his home on 7 February, he said: "Those are the people who have the right to lead UMNO, and in my view there are no such terms as 'Team A' and 'Team B.'"

Former Minister of Defense Abdullah Badawi also thinks that, although there are many UMNO members who are thinking of or are trying to restore the position of UMNO, the Malay community should give the present leaders an opportunity to consider the best way of doing this.

The former minister said, when we interviewed him at his office in Kuala Lumpur: "In my view all efforts and actions taken to restore UMNO are also part of the struggle to restore the self-respect of the party and the nation and to reestablish the political authority of the Malay community which has been threatened."

When asked to analyze the technical question faced by UMNO at present, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar also announced that the temporary committee assigned to reregister UMNO will not be formed until the registrar of societies officially issues a notice declaring that the party is illegal. The deputy prime minister said that the process of issuing the notice by the office of the registrar of societies may take between 3 and 4 months. Such a committee will not be formed till then, even if it is necessary to wait that long. He also declared that regarding this question anyone has the right to form a new party, even in the name of "UMNO." However, whether that would be accepted or not would be up to the registrar of societies.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar said: "The problem now is that we are faced with a dilemma. The High Court has declared UMNO an illegal organization, but the registrar of societies has not yet issued a notice to us." He said that he was leaving the question of the next step following the decision of the High Court of Kuala Lumpur to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, because "UMNO," in another sense of the word, is still in existence as long as it is not officially declared illegal by the registrar of societies.

Asked whether he and Prime Minister Mahathir will discuss this matter, Ghafar said that the problem now is that the UMNO Supreme Council no longer exists. Furthermore, he said, the meeting of the Supreme Council of the party, which was scheduled to be held on 13 February, has also been canceled. He said: "How this matter should be handled is a matter for decision by Doctor Mahathir."

The deputy prime minister also said that, although there are certain groups who have accused the government of Doctor Mahathir of having caused this problem for UMNO, this is not true. According to him, a solution has been suggested to the group of 11 UMNO members that all disputes be resolved outside of court. However, it appears that they prefer to resort to the court. He said: "I regret that they prefer to resolve disputes in this way, rather than resolving them within the party." He also declared his full loyalty and support for the leadership of Prime Minister Mahathir, because the problem facing the party now is not the fault of the prime minister.

Meanwhile, former Minister of Defense Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi asked Malays throughout the country not to engage in speculation or spread rumors which would make it more difficult for the leaders to restore the position of UMNO, which has been proclaimed to be an illegal organization.

According to the former minister of defense, speculation and rumors will only confuse the situation and make the people more anxious about the future of UMNO.

He said: "For the present, the people should be calm while the leaders look for a solution to restore the party." He is convinced that in dealing with this unfortunate affair, the interests of factional groups such as UMNO A and UMNO B which developed in the past will automatically be buried.

He stated: "I believe that all Malays want to see the UMNO program continue without interruption. This can only happen if within our hearts the spirit and program of a strong UMNO continue to exist."

"UMNO Problems Will Not Weaken My Spirit"

On 7 February Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba declared that the problems which are now being faced by UMNO in no way have weakened his spirit as deputy prime minister.

He declared: "The matter of resigning from the government position in which I was installed has never arisen, although it is not the same thing regarding the position to which I was elected in the party."

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar also said that he would not back away from the program of the Malay community, although his position as vice president of UMNO no longer exists. Speaking to an UTUSAN MALAYSIA

representative at an interview conducted at his residence in Kuala Lumpur on 7 February, Ghafar declared that his supporters are now trying to restore the original UMNO. He believes that the Malay community still supports the strong party which once provided a protective umbrella for the Malays in this country.

Ghafar said that, in any case, he is prepared to provide his support to whoever is chosen as a colleague of the prime minister. He expressed his regret and sadness "because his dream of seeing 'UMNO' as the organization holding the record of having been in government for the longest time has been destroyed."

Ghafar said that he had never thought that an organization which has already provided such service to the Malay community would be outlawed in the twinkling of an eye.

He said: "Unfortunately, the action of a small group which saw themselves as fighters for the party has caused these noble objectives to be destroyed."

He declared: "I hope that everyone will learn a lesson from this development and that it will open the eyes of everyone to the importance of UMNO for the Malays." He added that the Malays have entrusted their future to the party. They have been sheltered by it, and suddenly there is no place for them to depend on.

He said that UMNO at present has suspended that relationship, and this is the consequence of actions characterized as "turning victory and defeat into ashes." He again declared: "Our view up to now which said that UMNO was like the backbone of the National Front has also disappeared from the point of view of the leadership of the country by the Malays. However, we still are lucky that Doctor Mahathir remains in office as prime minister." Ghafar also declared that he has received written statements from members of Parliament, almost all of whom have stated their full support for Doctor Mahathir.

He also called on all of the Malay people and their leaders to hold firmly to the Malay saying, "United we stand, divided we fall." He again recalled the appeal of the leaders that "UMNO" should be the savior of the Malay nation.

According to Ghafar, UMNO is the best organized party in Malaysia and is even the best organized party in the world. Unfortunately, the technical error involving the failure of only 30 out of its 8,000 branches to be registered caused it to be declared illegal by the High Court, he added.

Anwar Asks Tunku To Leave UMNO Malaysia
*42130095c Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay
12 Feb 88 p 3*

[Text] Butterworth, 11 February—Anwar Ibrahim, former deputy president of UMNO [United Malays National Organization], called on Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra on 11 February to leave his proposed UMNO Malaysia party so that all former members of UMNO will be able to oppose openly those behind the organization of the new party.

According to him, it is clear that the former prime minister is being used by a certain group, and Tunku Abdul Rahman should leave that new party so that all former members of UMNO will be able to oppose this irresponsible organization.

He made this statement to reporters in Butterworth after meeting with members of Parliament and of the Penang State Council [Dewan Negeri Pulau Pinang] of UMNO, which was declared illegal by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur on 4 February.

According to Anwar, Tunku Abdul Rahman should not be involved in the formation of the new party. He said: "As a respected statesman, he should not be dragged into it by an ambitious group."

Anwar said that the Malaysian community respects Tunku Abdul Rahman as a statesman. However, following his actions recently, he will not have their sympathy and support.

He stated: "I hope that he will immediately leave the UMNO Malaysia party and, together with other, former members of UMNO, will oppose this ambitious group in the interests of the nation."

He said that on 8 February the formation of the UMNO Malaysia party was made public. However, the reaction of the Malay community, particularly in Penang, was very cool, and this reflects the fact that this party will not be successful.

Meeting

Previously, on behalf of members of Parliament and of the Malaysian State Council [Dewan Negeri Melayu] of Penang, he expressed their loyalty and confidence in Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in restoring the situation.

All members of Parliament and of the Malaysian State Council of Penang attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, when he spoke after visiting the Perak Islamic Call Federation Complex [Kompleks Persekutuan Seruan Islam Perak] in Ipoh [Perak] on 11 February, Anwar gave assurances that the struggle undertaken by the leaders of the past would be continued. However, this would be done in a different way, based on developments at the time.

This is because the manner and style of government in the past was different from what it is now.

He said: "The style of government is always changing, according to the demands and changes of the times and the circumstances. However, what is certain is that the efforts and the struggle we undertake now are a continuation of the efforts and the struggle undertaken by leaders of the past."

He said that if the present leadership continues to follow the leadership style of the 1960's, the country and the people will suffer. He added: "For that reason the style and manner of government must change to fit in with the demands of the circumstances and of the times."

05170

UMNO President Explains Failure To Register Party Branches

42130095b Kuala Lumpur *UTUSAN MALAYSIA* in Malay 12 Feb 88 p 1

[By Rozaid Abdul Rahman]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 11 February—UMNO [United Malay National Organization] has informed the registrar of societies that its failure to register 30 party branches did not occur deliberately. The party, which was declared illegal by the High Court last week, left it to the registrar to decide on its future.

This was stated by Datuk Sri Sanusi Junid in his capacity as secretary general of UMNO in his reply to the letter from the registrar of societies received on 6 February, asking for an explanation. Speaking to reporters at his home on 11 February, Sanusi announced that his reply to the registrar of societies was sent by mail on 8 February. Up to the present he has not yet received a response to his letter.

According to Sanusi, the letter from the registrar of societies only stated that 30 UMNO branches had not been registered and that this was in conflict with the Societies Act of 1966.

Sanusi said that the registrar did not mention the question of canceling the registration of UMNO. The registrar also did not directly refer to the decision of the High Court last week which declared that UMNO was an illegal organization. Despite this, Sanusi said that he considered the letter as a request for an explanation. He said: "I answered the letter of the registrar of societies

shortly after receiving it on 6 February. In my reply I did not say anything other than admitting the truth that, in fact, 30 branches were not registered. In this connection I again declared to the registrar of societies that this error was not deliberate and I also said that I would leave it to his discretion to make a proper decision."

Sanusi said that he and a number of the highest officials of UMNO had previously held several discussions to determine the future direction of the party. He said that now it was up to the discretion of the registrar of societies to act on the UMNO letter of reply.

As a matter of background information, the registrar of societies has the authority to direct UMNO to take action to correct the errors which it has made.

Regarding the formation of a new party, which has been undertaken by former Prime Minister Abdul Rahman, Sanusi said that, in fact, he expected this from the very beginning. Certain groups have emerged which want to destroy UMNO.

He added: "It is because of this that all discussions which tried to resolve the matter outside of court have deliberately been made to fail."

Sanusi also warned that certain groups have emerged which are presently trying to absolve themselves of responsibility for the new party recently established in Penang. They are the backbone of the UMNO group of 11.

05170

MCA Supports UMNO Only With Mahathir as Leader

42130096c Kuala Lumpur *BERITA HARIAN* in Malay 13 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 12 February—The MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] will only support UMNO [United Malay National Organization] which is led by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba.

Dr Ling Liong Sik, president of the MCA, said on 12 February: "The MCA will not support UMNO if it does not include Dr Mahathir and Ghafar Baba."

He said the decision of the MCA fully to support the leadership of the prime minister and his deputy means that the MCA will only support UMNO if it is led by these two leaders.

He stated: "When we support Doctor Mahathir and Ghafar Baba, we cannot support UMNO if it does not include the two of them."

Doctor Ling made this statement on 12 February, when he was asked about the view of the MCA regarding the UMNO Malaysia party, following the opening of the Jalan Raya Restoration Campaign at Bukit Bintang Plaza in Kuala Lumpur.

Regarding the statement by Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar that the prime minister is no longer the chairman of the Supreme Council of the National Front, he said that this question has not come up directly, because UMNO still exists.

He stated: "As the registrar of societies has not declared that UMNO is an illegal organization, UMNO still exists. Therefore, Doctor Mahathir is still chairman of the Supreme Council of the National Front. It is not necessary for me to make a statement based on speculation as to who will hold that position should UMNO be declared an illegal organization in the future."

Doctor Ling said that the MCA continues to stand firmly behind UMNO and the National Front.

He declared: "We will not run away if we see our friends in difficulty."

Regarding national political stability, he said that the support of a variety of national community groups for the prime minister and his deputy proves that the country is still in stable condition.

05170

Mahathir Announces Establishment of New UMNO

42130098b Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 17 Feb 88 p 1

[By Rosli Ismail and Badrul Hisham Aziz]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 16 Feb—Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today announced the formation of a new party named "United Malays National Party (New)," abbreviated "UMNO," to replace the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] party ruled illegal by the Supreme Court.

The prime minister announced that the registration of the new party, using a name that differs only slightly from that of the only UMNO, had been approved by the Registry of Organizations last Saturday [13 February].

Meanwhile, the Supreme Council of the National Front at noon today accepted the new UMNO as a component and reappointed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as chairman.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir made the surprise announcement, which ended a 13-day puzzle over the fate of UMNO, in a press conference after the meeting of the National Front's Supreme Council at the Pan Pacific Hotel here.

"UMNO and the National Front are as they were before," he said regarding the speedy resolution of the UMNO problem, which many observers initially thought would take much longer. He also told the press conference that since this is a new party all old UMNO members who want to join will have to reapply.

In reply to a question about qualifications for joining the party, he emphasized that only people who were loyal to the old UMNO would be accepted.

"Loyalty to the party is very important. If a person was disloyal to the party and was active in hurting the interests of the party, I don't think he should be a member of this party," he said.

When asked whether former Minister of Trade and Industry Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah would be accepted, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir merely said, "It is not I alone who will decide that."

With regard to former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam, he said, "The party will study his request when it is received. Anyone may apply," he added.

The prime minister said he himself holds the office of president of the new UMNO, while Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba is deputy president, Minister of Information Datuk Mohamed Rahmat is secretary, and Minister of Finance Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin is treasurer. In addition, he said, several other leaders of the old UMNO are members of the new UMNO committee.

He said the efforts to register the new UMNO were done in complete secrecy and in careful adherence to the law in order to avoid any legal action on the part of those who would want to prevent the reorganization of UMNO.

Rejecting accusations that the old UMNO leaders took no immediate action to solve the UMNO problem, he said they had a meeting after the court had ruled UMNO illegal. He said more than 30 members of the old UMNO Supreme Council, plus other leaders, attended the meeting, which was held secretly. He said the meeting decided to appoint a small committee made up of the prime minister himself, Ghafar, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, and Datuk Paduka Daim. "We four were the ones who managed the work and preparation for registering the new party," he stated.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that, according to regulations, they would have to wait until the Registry sent a notice informing them of the deletion of the old UMNO before their application as a new party could be submitted. He said that meant that after the court's decision the Registry would send a letter requesting clarification to the UMNO secretary to enable him to defend UMNO's situation.

"This is the process called 'natural justice,' in which a person must be given the right to defend himself. We knew that no one could register a party with the same name before the Registry of Organizations deleted the old UMNO from the list.

"Therefore, we did not at first submit an application but waited for the Registry to send a letter requesting clarification. We would then answer the letter, and the Registry would then inform the party secretary that the old UMNO registration was canceled.

"After that, the cancellation would be gazetted, but all of a sudden someone else applied for registration of a new party with the same name as UMNO's, which at that time had not been deleted," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that because of the request by Tunku Abdul Rahman's "UMNO Malaysia" party, they submitted one day later a request for registration in the name of "UMNO 88." He said the applications for both "UMNO Malaysia" and UMNO 88" were rejected by the Registry of Organizations since at that time the old UMNO had not yet been deleted.

As soon as he received word from the Registry of its deletion, he said, they immediately submitted a request for registration of the new UMNO. The Registry approved the registration on Saturday, 13 February, and a letter to that effect was delivered yesterday.

In answer to another question, the Prime Minister explained that the registration of the new party was presented complete with its organization and bylaws. "We prepared carefully and adhered to regulations, because we didn't want to stall midway," he declared.

When asked about the new UMNO's form of organization, he said it does not differ much from that of the old UMNO.

He estimated the process of enrolling new members will take about a year, considering how many there are.

When asked about the issue of UMNO property relinquished as a result of registration of the new UMNO, he said the subject will be studied thoroughly in order to find a solution.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a conference of the new UMNO will be held at a time stipulated in the bylaws.

Tengku Razaleigh's Party Application Turned Down

42130098a Kuala Lumpur *UTUSAN MALAYSIA* in *Malay* 16 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 15 Feb—Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah announced this afternoon that the request by Tunku Abdul Rahman's group for the formation of a new party has been rejected by the Registry of Organizations.

In a statement issued this afternoon, he said, "I have been informed that the Registry of Organizations has rejected the request."

Following the rejection, Tengku Razaleigh, who is believed to be the one behind the Tunku's party, called on the prime minister to use legislation to settle the issue of the illegality of UMNO [United Malays National Organization].

Tengku Razaleigh did not say why the request was refused. *UTUSAN MALAYSIA* was informed, however, that the reason for the rejection was that the registration of UMNO [United Malays National Organization], which the court had been ruled illegal, had not yet been canceled.

Sources said the rejection was made on 10 February, 2 days after the request was submitted.

The Tunku's party, which took the name of United Malays National Organization, or "UMNO Malaysia" for short, was formed to replace UMNO, which had been banned by the court.

Sources said that because the Tunku's party was intended to replace UMNO and because UMNO actually still existed the request by the Tunku's group naturally had to be rejected.

The party's founding committee had named Tunku Abdul Rahman as president and Tun Hussein Onn as deputy president. Former Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim was named general secretary, and Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin was made head of information.

Political observers characterized the rejection as a step toward the "rebirth" of UMNO. This also means the Registry of Organizations is not going to cancel UMNO's registration. They believe that, on the contrary, the Registry will direct UMNO to correct its mistakes so that the party, which is almost 42 years old, will be able to operate again.

The party sponsored by the Tunku, which was announced at the Tunku's birthday gathering at Pulau Pinang on 8 February, was vigorously opposed at all levels of UMNO.

Nevertheless, the Tunku, Tun Hussein, and Datuk Rais persisted in their action, saying they were "saving UMNO because no one else would do it."

Following is the complete text of Tengku Razaleigh's statement:

"I am very sad because of the suspicion, slander, and criticism directed at me by several top leaders of our former party, UMNO. Unfortunately, the mass media of our homeland did not give me an opportunity to respond to their accusations and slander.

"Apparently, there was a question as to the sincerity of some delegates who met at the Parliament Building on 14 February 1988 to read their pledge of loyalty. Their sincerity continued to be questioned, and self-righteousness was persisted in throughout. Apparently, "whether present or not" in the meeting was not appreciated and made no difference. The accusers continued to dispute the sincerity of other people and justified themselves. In fact, I myself encouraged people known as my supporters to attend the 14 February meeting in order to strengthen the leadership and unity of Malays in Parliament and their solidarity in the National Front for the sake of maintaining national political stability.

"As you know, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, with Tun Hussein Onn and other former members of UMNO, last week submitted to the Registry of Organizations a request for the restoration of UMNO. I have been informed that the Registry has refused the request.

"This initiative was taken because other former UMNO leaders were taking no concrete action to restore UMNO. The action taken by the Tunku and his colleagues was for the purpose of creating a means of communication for the Malay community, which had lost its political voice. It was not, as reported, for the advancement of a certain circle or group and also not for the formation of a separate UMNO.

"The objective of those who took this initiative was merely the re-creation of a legal basis under provisions of law for maintaining Malay leadership in Malaysia by preserving the continuity of UMNO and thereby relieving the anxieties of all the members, who were dismayed by the Supreme Court's ruling.

"It is a matter to be regretted that no attention was given to the disputes and protests over the 30 illegal branches prior to the party's general assembly of April 1987. It is unimaginable that the top leadership was not aware of the serious violations of law that resulted in UMNO's being ruled an illegal organization.

"I have been informed that the authority of section 70 of the Organizations Act could have been used to save UMNO before the case was brought to court. Unfortunately, that was not done. Because of that negligence, UMNO today is no longer on the side of the law. Is that not astonishing? Should not some other people be blamed?

"This does not mean, however, that the party cannot be restored, although the Registry of Organizations has rejected the attempts of senior statesmen to reinstate it. Of course, there are other ways to solve the problem. One of those ways is through legislation, which certainly would be complicated and take much time. There are indications this may be a way to reach a settlement.

"Therefore, I propose that the prime minister, who is also the minister of home affairs, use his good offices for the possible amendment of the Organizations Act to permit UMNO to return to its legal status before the law and to retain the original rights of former UMNO members. This is among the most practical ways open to us for resolving the problem of reinstating UMNO."

6942

Commentary on New UMNO

42130098c Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 17 Feb 88 p 2

[Khalid Mohd "News Analysis": "A New UMNO To Purge the Old UMNO"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 16 Feb—Although he had many options, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad chose to reregister UMNO [United Malays National Organization] as a new party.

This means he and his committee have absolute power to select whomever they want to be members of the new UMNO.

To make a long story short, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad now can purge people who, in his own words, "are a thorn in the side."

The choice made by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also means the story of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) born at the Johor Grand Palace on 11 May 1946 is closed.

Furthermore, the old UMNO takes with it those who have made missteps.

Heading that list is certain to be Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and the members of the group of 11 who dragged UMNO to court, thus bringing about the demise of the party as it approached its 42d anniversary.

Without further hiding his intentions, the prime minister told reporters today that the new UMNO he is sponsoring will accept only "loyal" people as members.

Earlier, Senator Hussein Ahmad (chief of information in the old UMNO) had given public warning that those involved in the formation of the party sponsored by Tunku Abdul Rahman would automatically lose their membership when the situation is normalized.

The reregistration of UMNO as a new party also means the 1.4 million members of the old UMNO must reapply if they want to join the new UMNO. This process will take a year, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

As said earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's action will be denounced as using the occasion of the banning of UMNO to purge the party of people he does not want.

He has now indeed proven himself to be skillful at playing politics. He not only used the law to save UMNO, but he used the same means for political interests.

By reregistering UMNO as a new party, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir has eliminated the problem of reconvening the general assembly of 24 April, which the court had ruled invalid. That issue and the question of the 30 unregistered branches have now been buried with the old UMNO and the people who dug their own graves.

Tengku Razaleigh last night asked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir to use his good offices to amend the Organizations Act to save UMNO. He made his request only after the party sponsored by the Tunku had been rejected.

It is clear Tengku Razaleigh knew his own position would be threatened if Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir were to use another means.

Today Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir again proved who the fastest one is.

Of course, the Organizations Act could have been amended easily, as requested by Tengku Razaleigh, and by that change the problem of UMNO's illegal status would have been resolved without reregistration as a new party.

Such a resolution, however, would mean UMNO's resumption of its normal situation, and the 24 April general assembly would have to be reconvened, seeing the court had ruled it invalid.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir saw all of this from the beginning and therefore had said, "We don't need to ring bells about we are going to do." Although he was criticized for not acting quickly, he was actually far ahead of Tengku Razaleigh and his colleagues.

In fact, while Tengku Razaleigh was urging Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir to amend the Organizations Act the prime minister was creating a new UMNO.

For Tengku Razaleigh, the resolution of the problem of the illegal status of UMNO through amending the Organizations Act would have given him one more political hope, because he thus would have been able to proceed with his "battle" to defeat Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir in 1990.

For Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, amendment of the Organizations Act with "retrospective effect" would have forced him to relive the clamor of 24 April, which had killed the UMNO of 1946.

Thus, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir not only is stronger and fully in control of the situation but holds the fate of Tengku Razaleigh and his colleagues in his hands.

6942

NANYANG SIANG PAU Welcomes Birth of New UMNO

42050016d Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in Chinese 19 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "UMNO Restores Its Legal Position"]

[Text] Registration of the UMNO-Baru [New UMNO], headed by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir, was approved, and subsequently this new party was accepted by and into the National Front as the main pillar of this ruling group. This turn of events has wiped out the "outstanding and dubious" atmosphere which pervaded the political situation throughout the country for the past 2 weeks. The founding of the New UMNO has injected a new vigor to the Malays' efforts in pooling their political strength. At the same time, it has cleared up the implication of government instability which might have been reflected by the political infighting within the old UMNO. Like the advent of the Year of the Dragon, this development symbolizes stability which is worthy of encouragement and congratulations.

As asserted by Dr Mahathir, the question of legality of the old UMNO founded in 1946, which was declared "illegal" by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on 4 February in the wake of a litigation brought up by 11 UMNO members, who demanded that the party election in April last year be declared null and void, was purely a technical problem according to the law. The old leadership of UMNO was totally capable of resolving the difficulties through the due process of law. Former Deputy Home Minister Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad gave the most accurate clarification concerning the Societies Act when he said that the UMNO was not declared "illegal," but merely "unlawful" and that the channel to make it lawful again remained open.

Once the UMNO's legality is under suspicion by the court, the first implication is that the legitimacy of its party election (and by extension the position of its top leader) becomes suspect. The second implication involves the question of jurisdiction of its governing power. From the viewpoint of interests for the country and people, the cabinet ministers in the executive and judiciary departments, as well as speakers of state assemblies, chief ministers and members of Parliament have one after another pledged their support for Dr Mahathir to continue taking charge of the government. Furthermore, the Yang Dipertuan Agung [the King] appealed to all members of the ruling parties to support the prime minister appointed by himself. All these are necessary measures to avoid the nation from being troubled by a government's instability.

Of course, the key button that controls the machinery for the entire situation belongs to the first implication mentioned above, and how the UMNO can be reorganized to make it lawful again has been the cynosure of attention during the past 2 weeks. From the legal standpoint and commenting on the problem from a fair and objective angle, the work for "reviving" the UMNO should at any rate and first of all be given to the original leadership to carry out. If this leadership created after last April's party election is not acceptable, the job should be handed to the pre-election Supreme Council members. The "UMNO-Malaysia" preparatory group committed an unwise move by rushing things—filing an application just 4 days after the High Court's judgment—without first exchanging views with the original leadership, so that its own one-sided lineup gave the public the impression that it was seizing the opportunity to grab power.

Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn, both highly respected elder statesmen in national and party affairs, did come out to organize "UMNO-Malaysia" with the purpose of clarifying the situation and restoring UMNO's legal position. Their intentions were completely honorable and acceptable to the public in general. On the other hand, the attitude of Datuk Musa Hitam, who challenged UMNO's leadership last year, was more pertinent and to the point. He urged all UMNO members to give the original leadership a chance to resolve the current crisis. Although the Tunku and Tun Hussein Onn tried their best to maintain fair play to all parties concerned, their efforts proved futile, because the overall situation was the result of factional fight within the party, and both elder statesmen apparently ignored the psychological obstacle of this infighting factor.

After being successfully registered, the "New UMNO," in the process of campaigning for new party members, is bound to gain the monopolistic position of a ruling party. This will not be surprising, for politics is impersonal and so are the challengers, while the victors need not exercise their indulgence, either. In launching its legal proceedings through its 11 lawful members, the challenging party apparently did not anticipate that its

litigation would bring forth today's situation. Not only did it fail to topple the ruling faction, but it enabled the latter to restructure the UMNO in line with its own aspirations.

Henceforth, the "New UMNO" can go through Parliament and the legislature in thawing its original assets and carrying out various activities, including the signing of a contract with the Bureau of Highways for the construction of a North-South Highway project. The Societies Act may also be amended toward perfection. The challenging faction, headed by former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh, must revise its fighting strategy from now on, but the emergence of the "New UMNO" will undoubtedly open up a new page in the political development of the Malay race.

9300/6091

DAP Official Contradicts Mahathir on ISA Crackdown

42050017c Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 6 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] Lee Lam Thye, acting opposition leader in Parliament, indicated that the prime minister's statement made in Johore Bharu yesterday concerning the crackdown is inaccurate and shocking.

Mr Lee, also acting general secretary of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], made this remark at a DAP Selangor branch gathering held at the clubhouse of Taiwan Returned Students Association in Pataling Jaya today.

Mr Lee said: "How could the prime minister say that DAP leaders were rounded up because they were plotting to create racial trouble? Isn't the prime minister aware of the fact that the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Amnesty International has accepted and announced to the world that Lim Kit Siang and the 37 other detainees are prisoners of conscience? Or that a prisoner of conscience is defined as a person actively engaged in a struggle for peace, the rule of law and constitutional system based on his political belief, religion, language and culture, but is being detained without any charges?"

"The struggle of DAP leaders enjoys the backing and support of 1 million adults in our country. In the 1986 general election, these 1 million mature adults voted for the DAP because they wanted the DAP leaders to represent them in and outside of Parliament. They were expressing their inner voices and aspirations without fear or selfishness. The prime minister should comprehend the role played by the DAP as a legal opposition party under the parliamentary democratic system."

Mr Lee pointed out that if the prime minister really believes that the detained DAP leaders were plotting to create racial disturbances, why doesn't he charge and arraign them before the court in line with jurisprudence

and international standards, but, instead, keeps detaining the leaders on the strength of the Internal Security Act for an indefinite period?

Mr Lee affirmed that the DAP is a peace-loving and law-abiding legal political party, and that its leaders are by no means a bunch of trouble-makers.

9300/12223

Editorial on BN Victory in Tanjung Puteri By-Election

42050017e Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 7 Mar 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Barisan Nasional Retains Tanjung Puteri"]

[Text] After counting twice the total votes cast in the Tanjung Puteri, Johore by-election, it turned out that the Barisan Nasional (BN) [National Front], by a minute difference of 31 votes, passed this crucial test. It managed to defend this fortress after tremendous effort. This by-election carried a great significance to the BN and served as a severe test to the newly-registered "New UMNO." While this achievement was a precarious victory, it was an undisputed one all the same.

The counting of the votes dragged on until nearly 4 AM, before it was completed. BN's Datuk Mohd Junos Sulaiman got 10,181 votes, Abdul Razak Ahmad of the People's Socialist Party of Malaysia [PSRM] got 10,150 votes, and 274 other votes cast were declared null and void. Although this was the outcome after three rounds of vote counting, the discrepancies for the majority and voided votes were negligible: in the first round, the voided votes totaled 274, and the majority votes numbered 40 which was finally set at 31 votes. Apart from the invalidated ballot which could tip the balance between victor and loser, the voting rate in this by-election was only a little over 58 percent, 8 percent lower than the 67 percent turnout in last year's general election. This should have been a factor for influencing the situation.

The Tanjung Puteri electoral district is located in Johore Bharu's center, and among its total 35,446 voters, 42.4 percent are ethnic Chinese, so the way they cast their votes occupies a decisive position. But Tanjung Puteri has traditionally been UMNO's bailiwick, and opposition parties must necessarily attach great importance to the inclinations of the majority of Malays. That's why the opposition parties allowed the PSRM to have a direct fight against the BN, in order to ideologically balance the ethnicity factor in the by-election. This was an astute choice indeed.

This by-election was hotly contested, because its outcome carried various degrees of special significance to all parties concerned. By bringing forward the PSRM to the

battle, the opposition parties enjoyed the vigorous support of the Islamic Party [PAS] and the Social Democratic Party, plus DAP's tacit approval, thereby minimizing the scattering of votes and the fear of disturbance in the rear. The tussle indeed looked like a battle between the ruling and opposition camps as they were pitted against each other. Even so, Abdul Razak Ahmad, who had gone into battle three times, still was down on his luck and unable to fulfill his wish of becoming a state assemblyman. However, from the two major factors indicated in past elections, namely, the small difference in votes between victor and vanquished and the light turnout of the electors, the opposition parties still possessed potentials in this by-election and it is expected that they will continue to intensify their firepower for future attacks.

Determined to win this by-election, Barisan Nasional's member parties, including those headquartered in Sarawak and Sabah, converged on Johore Bharu to take an active part in electioneering. Even BN President Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir took time off to journey down and root for his candidate. The huge formation attracted the attention of the entire nation. Two reasons may be mentioned why the BN went to such great lengths to win in the Tanjung Puteri by-election. One is that its opponent is so strong and powerful as not to be taken lightly, and the other is that this battle carries a great significance to the New UMNO's public image. As Prime Minister Dr Mahathir himself put it: "This by-election for the Tanjung Puteri state assembly serves as a test of solidarity to members of the old UMNO."

As the pathological consequences to UMNO's unprecedentedly serious power struggle last year, this main pillar of the ruling group was declared an unlawful organization by the High Court last month, which led the party further to a more complicated partisan war. After the New UMNO was officially registered, the situation within the party resembled "a calm before the storm." The people were closely watching how Dr Mahathir would defuse the forthcoming crisis. Since this was the first time that the New UMNO "sent out an army" to fight in a by-election, its success or failure would reflect its rallying power and degree of support in the eyes of the Malay populace and UMNO members.

Judging by the outline of the two results, the strength of the ruling and opposition parties is still even, with the Barisan Nasional getting a slight upper hand. In this by-election, nearly 15,000 voters—representing about 41-odd percent of the entire electors—did not cast their ballots, an increase of 8 percent nonvoters compared with last year. Whether this had anything to do with the murky situation within the UMNO is hard to say, and no generalization can be drawn. The leadership of the New UMNO appointed Datuk Zahari to be responsible in the electioneering work, and Datuk Musa Hitam came forward and helped out. This shows that Malay politicians have become mature and they do have the general

interest in mind; moreover, it explains that the condition within the UMNO is still in a state of flux, with the New UMNO clearly manipulating the political initiative.

9300/12223

Pintar: New Political Party
42000308 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in
English 19 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fri—A new political party called Pintar, or Parti Tindakan Rakyat Malaysia, is being formed by a joint committee of graduates and the National Association of Film Producers, Artistes and Writers (Pakar).

Application to register this new party would be made to the Registrar of Societies once the party constitution has been reviewed by the pro-tem committee members, said Pintar pro-tem chairman Encik Zulkifli Haji Ahmad.

"The pro-tem committee is studying the party constitution so it can incorporate current issues affecting the country," he told reporters today.

The 30-member committee comprises professionals like doctors, lawyers and accountants.

Encik Zulkifli said Pintar should not be viewed as an Opposition party out to topple the Government. Instead, the party should be considered a "watchdog", offering construction criticism to any Government policy whenever necessary.

"Not all Government policies are bad and detrimental to the development of the country. We will support any good policy and, of course, we will try to correct the ones we think are bad," he added.

Encik Zulkifli said there was a need to form another party, since many people did not want to join any existing party for one reason or another.

"For example, of the 50,000 unemployed graduates, about 90 per cent did not have any party affiliation. And these graduates are young being between 24 and 29 years of age," he added.

Encik Zulkifli said the formation of this new party also conformed to a statement made by Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, who said that as a country practising a democratic system, anybody could form a political party.

He also said there was no reason why Pintar should not be registered.

"Once registered, Pintar will be making preparations for the next general election," he said.

Encik Zulkifli said Pintar was simply trying to produce a Member of Parliament to get involved in the decision-making process.

Pintar, he added, would be a multi-racial party since unemployment and hardship transcended racial barriers.

The pro-tem committee will meet on April 1.

/06662

MCA Headquarters Building Threatened With Foreclosure
42050017d Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in
Chinese 6 Mar 88 p 2

[Editorial: "MCA Headquarters Building May Change Hands"]

[Text] Datuk Yap Pian Hon, MCA Youth Wing leader, divulged the other day that MCA's financial situation is major cause for public worry and its headquarters building is in such a serious crisis that it can be taken over by its creditor banks anytime now. Investigation by our reporters has revealed that the MCA still owes Bank Bumiputra M\$35,480,000, and the amount of principal plus interest duly payable is M\$3 million. If this debt cannot be cleared within a short time, it is feared that the 23-story building located on Ampang Road, Kuala Lumpur may be foreclosed at any moment.

This being the case, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the MCA is facing yet another crisis. When the nation's economy improved, MCA's investment companies, the Multi-Purpose Holding Co. and the Cooperative Society Co., enjoyed all the good fortunes, without any thought that the situation could turn awry. After the outbreak of the party power struggle, however, the country's economic condition went downhill gradually, "with the roof of the house leaking and successive nights of rain pouring." Misfortunes seldom come singly to the MCA. Hard-pressed for money, it has too many problems to tackle. When the present leadership accepted the baton in November 1985, the party was an awful mess, with payable interest due the bank 6 months in arrears. Subsequently, the MCA had to raise money from all possible channels, including another loan from the Bank Bumiputra amounting to M\$7 million to pay back the M\$4 million interest and cover other urgent necessities. All this reflected the bad financial condition the party found itself in.

The problem now facing MCA's leadership and members is not a question of who has created it or who should be held responsible for the present predicament, because such finger-pointing would serve no purpose but may even speed up the fall of the MCA building into other people's hands. Rescuing the MCA headquarters is not merely a matter of saving a building, but of upholding the organization's dignity as well. When this imposing

building was completed and officially opened in September 1981, the MCA was in a high-spirited and vigorous condition. All its members were mighty proud of the presence of this high-rise structure situated in the golden zone of the capital's business district, and members of the Chinese community felt the same way, too. Today, how could MCA members have the heart to hand over this hard-earned, initial achievement of an empire to others on a silver platter?

We notice that MCA leaders have adopted several measures to raise funds, consolidate its financial condition and solve the bank loan problem. One of the steps taken was the massive canvassing of new life members. The target for this movement was 200,000 life members and a M\$20 million fund. The response to the first phase of this action, which was closed at the end of last year, is favorable, according to reports. However, it is believed that a certain amount of pledges have not been collected up till now, and this has created some unforeseen difficulties.

The only stratagem now is for the MCA to really and energetically push the second phase of the membership solicitation campaign to get a considerable number of new members to fulfill its pressing need, otherwise the MCA headquarters building will be foreclosed. During this period of economic difficulties, it is indeed not easy to raise money from outsiders. Even the fund-raising movement for the Chinese middle school education is becoming thorny. The MCA must develop its self-reliance spirit. If hundreds of thousands of MCA members are willing to pool their wisdom and efforts, they should be able to save their headquarters building and their party; furthermore, apart from canvassing new members, its common members should also be accepted as life members, while others who can afford to contribute money should do so to indicate their loyal support and devoted love to the party.

As a matter of fact, it is not the MCA alone that is in trouble. The United Malays National Organization [UMNO] was also plunged into financial difficulties when it constructed its M\$360 million headquarters building, and now that it is entangled in a legal controversy, UMNO's problem is even more serious and complicated than MCA's. We purposely give this example in order to convince MCA members that their problem is relatively easy to solve and that they need not lose hope. At a time when each member is being tested for his loyalty toward his party, it needs to be said that the MCA belongs to them, and only they themselves with their efforts can save their party and headquarters building.

Just imagine how depressed MCA members would feel if their headquarters building were to be taken over or auctioned off in public! As the huge debt owed by the MCA cannot be completely cleared by canvassing permanent members, its leaders must find other ways and means to solve this problem once and for all. But, at any

rate, its solution does not lie in selling the MCA headquarters building, because the loss of ownership would mean a setback and a serious blow to the party and its entire membership.

9300/12223

DAP Official Urges Caution in Amending Labor Act

42050016b Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in Chinese 15 Feb 88 p 5

[Text] Lee Lam Thye, acting secretary general of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], today urged the government to study the proposed Labor Act amendment cautiously and minutely before pushing for its passage during the next parliamentary session in order to forestall any controversy.

"Should the government decide to amend any articles in the Labor Act, it should provide guarantees that all quarters, including laborers, employers and even the government and capitalists, will benefit from the amendment," he said.

Mr Lee, an MP representing the Bukit Menteng constituency, said that if the amendment is aimed at attracting foreign investment and putting an end to labor strikes, it will lose its significance and create unfair, controversial issues. He added that all of us have tried our best to attract foreign capital into our country, but we cannot afford to do this at the expense of Malaysian workers' basic rights and interests.

Judged by matters discussed by the National Labor Consultative Council, a proposal to amend the 1955 Employment Act, the 1959 Labor Union Act and the 1969 Industrial Relations Act, would result in the serious engulfment of Malaysian workers' interests. Mr Lee indicated that one of the clauses to be amended will stipulate that a cabinet minister shall have the authority to decide, at any time, on any labor unrest or dispute without referring the matter to the Industrial Arbitration Bureau, and that once the minister has made his decision, it cannot be challenged before the court.

Mr Lee is also aware of the fact that the government has proposed to review the definition of "salary." According to the new proposal, "salary" shall not include bonuses and other payments stipulated in an employment contract. In Mr Lee's view, this would greatly affect the computation of the workers' compensation for overtime, retirement annuity, production subsidy and other allowances, and at the time reduce the amount of the workers' take-home pay.

9300/6091

DAP's Lee Lam Thye Stresses Unchanged Role of Party

42050016e Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 23 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Lee Lam Thye, acting general secretary of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], today admitted that without the leadership of Lim Kit Siang, his party is suffering a big blow, but he believes that with the solidarity of all its members, the DAP's difficulties can be overcome.

He said that the detention of Lim Kit Siang and six other colleagues may be described as the most serious test ever encountered since the party's founding. He hoped that this experience can enhance the leadership members' sense of awareness, make them more appreciative of their responsibilities and more willing to pay greater sacrifice, so that the party can gloriously carry on.

Mr Lee assumed his duties as DAP's acting general secretary on 27 October 1987 when Lim Kit Siang was arrested by the police on the strength of the Internal Security Act [ISA]. He told our reporter today that the party's urgent tasks are twofold: On the one hand, it will strictly implement the plans and strategy drawn up by Lim Kit Siang, and campaign nationwide for the speedy release of Mr Lim and the other six leaders on the other.

Mr Lee also said that the DAP will continue to launch a publicity offensive so that the public will better understand Mr Lim Kit Siang's contributions to the party, people and nation, as well as the party's unchanged role.

Lee Lam Thye also indicated that with the view to adapting itself to the situation without Mr Lim's presence, the DAP will continue to take a firm stand and assure the public that Mr Lim's position in the party leadership remains strong without any contradictions by virtue of the wholehearted support accorded him by the leadership and membership of the party. This need not be doubted.

Speaking about the party's line and policy, Mr Lee firmly asserted that there is no change now or in the future.

He said, "Although the detention of our seven leaders is a big blow to us, we will absolutely not abandon our party's objectives and strategies, particularly the 1990 political action and Tanjong's second battle plan set down by the party's Central Committee prior to the big crackdown."

He continued, "As the nation's largest opposition party, the DAP will continue to adopt a no-compromise attitude and to oppose all unreasonable policies of the government. We will continue to reflect the inner voices and aspirations of the masses in Parliament and state assemblies."

Mr Lee believes that the big crackdown conducted by the government last October, and the Printing Press and Publications Act and the Police Act amendments subsequently passed by Parliament, were disadvantageous not only to the DAP but also other political parties and mass organizations.

Therefore, he said, the DAP is shouldering a great responsibility not only in confronting these issues but also in guaranteeing their resolution.

He added that due to the restrictions of the above-mentioned laws, his party can no longer stage peaceful public demonstrations against payment of tolls for the North-South Highway or concerning the problem of cooperative societies. However, the Central Committee of the party has mapped out other action plans.

He said that these actions will be carried out in line with the parliamentary democratic procedures and our constitution.

Mr Lee said when the government launched the crackdown operation, DAP's Central Committee considered boycotting the Parliament and state assembly meetings, but the idea was finally discarded because the Central Committee was convinced that it would be more effective for the party's representatives to fight for our rights and interests from the inside tracks.

He said, "To deal with our 1990 Political Action and Tanjong's Second Battle Plan, we have set up a special task force comprising young leaders. In the wake of the mass arrest and the adoption of the above-mentioned amended laws, we were not only faced with the problem of shorthandedness, but also restricted in our activities. To achieve our targets, we are compelled to intensify the supervision of our Special Task Force's activities."

Speaking about efforts for the release of Lim Kit Siang, Karpal Singh, Dr Tan Seng Giaw, P. Patta, Lau Dak Kee, V. David and Lim Guan Eng, it was divulged by Mr Lee Lam Thye that 2 months ago he travelled to England to meet with responsible officers of the Amnesty International and the International Social-Democratic Organization.

Domestically, Mr Lee continued, the DAP will launch a nationwide signature collection movement on 8 March, and the list of signatures will be presented as a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs with hopes that this action will lead to the release of Lim Kit Siang and party. The target will be 300,000 signatures at least, according to Mr Lee.

He said that after the Printing Press and Publications Act (Amended) was passed, some newspapers curtailed news items and other information concerning the DAP. In view of this, his party has again applied for a permit to publish a newspaper, and if the application is

approved, it has decided to resume publishing ROCKET to let the public, especially those who have received an English-language education, understand the party's activities.

Regarding the party's plan to hold a national convention and election of officers on 15-16 April, Mr Lee said that although Lim Kit Siang and his colleagues already relinquished their respective positions following their arrest, representatives of various party branches may still nominate them for leadership positions in the 20-member Central Committee. This is because the Internal Security Act, under which Lim Kit Siang and party were detained, contains clauses permitting them to be exempt from relinquishing their positions and to enjoy the right of appeal.

He said that in this abnormal period, the message given to the party members by Lim Kit Siang and by himself is the same, and that is, let us take a firm stand, maintain our unity and uphold our discipline.

"The entire membership must regard the above-mentioned problems as a challenge and a test. Whether we can or cannot overcome these problems will depend on the cooperation and support of the Central Committee and the entire membership," he stressed.

Asked whether the arrest of Mr Lim and his conferees has in one way or another revealed the weakness of the party under Mr Lim's guidance, Mr Lee touched on the question lightly, saying, "Inherently, every political party is bound to have organizational problems. We also need to improve gradually, and naturally a short period of time cannot make everybody satisfied."

9300/6091

DAP Seeks Foreign Help To Free Detained Officers

42050017a Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in Chinese 3 Mar 88 p 5

[Text] Lee Lam Thye, acting general secretary of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], today indicated that his party will continue seeking the help of international organizations to free DAP representatives in Parliament who are still being detained under the Internal Security Act [ISA].

Mr Lee said that several international bodies, after receiving DAP's report, have shown interest in the case of the arrest and detention of the party's MP's.

He made the remarks to reporters today after having received a visiting MP representing the New Zealand Labor Party, Ms Sonya Davis, at DAP's headquarters in Pataling Jaya.

Mr Lee said that Ms Davis is visiting Kuala Lumpur to attend a seminar organized for Asian parliamentary members on the problem of population growth, and that she requested a meeting with him to better understand the true situation about the arrest of DAP members sitting in Parliament, especially Lim Kit Siang.

Mr Lee added that he also explained to the visitor his party's attitude and stand on this matter and that she sympathized with DAP's predicament.

He requested Ms Davis make use of the New Zealand Labor Party's influence and other proper channels to urge the Malaysian government to release the DAP detainees.

At present, the said Labor Party is New Zealand's ruling party and, like the DAP, is a member of the International Socialist Organization.

Ms Sonya Davis indicated that today she called on DAP leaders in her capacity of a New Zealand MP with the view to comprehending the problems being faced by the DAP, adding that her meeting had nothing to do with the New Zealand government.

This morning she paid a courtesy call on DAP Acting General Secretary Lee Lam Thye accompanied by an official of the New Zealand High Commissioner's Office.

Mr Lee said that last month he received a letter from the Parliamentary Alliance in Geneva, advising him that the organization is showing interest in the DAP report on the government crackdown. The letter added that the alliance's Special Committee on the Violation of Human Rights held a meeting on 8-11 February to discuss the issue.

Mr Lee contacted the Geneva organization's help during his trip to London from 18 to 26 January.

Lee Lam Thye said that a West German parliamentary delegation will be visiting Malaysia in the middle of this month and that he would avail himself of the opportunity to apprise the visitors of the problems surrounding the detention of DAP representatives in Parliament.

9300/12223

Shell Gives Aid to Malaysian Institute of Economic Research

42130096b Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 13 Feb 88 p 8

[By Ibrahim Yahaya]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 12 February—The Shell Company of Malaysia contributed M\$1 million on 12 February to the Malaysian Institute for Economic Research (MIER), making it the largest contributor up to now. The contribution, which was turned over by Dr Mark

Moody-Stuart, its executive chairman, to Tun Ismail Ali, the chairman of the MIER, will be used by the institution to carry out economic and financial research.

The MIER, which was created in December 1985, is carrying on several projects, including developing an econometric framework to forecast growth and gross domestic product in this country.

In his speech on the occasion Ismail asked that more large companies in this country follow Shell's example by contributing to the MIER.

He said: "Before this Shell contribution was made, I felt that the MIER would have problems in financing its research. However, as of now my view may be different."

Dr Kamal Salih, executive director of the MIER, said that the institute was founded in November 1985 to establish a position as an independent institution in the financial and research sectors.

Sustaining Its Operations

He said: "Up to this point the MIER has collected about M\$1.1 million. We need about M\$10 million to carry on various research projects and to sustain our administrative operations." Its administrative budget is between about M\$700,000 and M\$1 million annually.

He said that the government would provide support for the MIER, depending on how much money is raised. He said: "If we raise M\$1 million, the government will give us M\$1 million." He said that among the first contributors was the Associated Banks of Malaysia (ABM), which gave the MIER M\$100,000.

The institute has also established a MIER Forecasters Club, and Shell is one of its 10 members. A senior Shell executive sits on the MIER Advisory Panel to provide administrative expertise.

Doctor Moody said that his company considers the contribution which it has given as "an investment" to strengthen and improve the economic structure of Malaysia.

According to him, Malaysia has a number of advantages, including extensive natural resources, a strategic location, modern facilities, trained workers, and good investment incentives.

After stating that Shell has invested more than M\$3.4 billion in Malaysia during the past 5 years—a rate of M\$680 million annually—he said: "Proper economic research will provide a good foundation for planning for a proper investment climate."

Regarding its operations, Doctor Moody said that Shell will try further to expand its oil refinery at Port Dickson [Negeri Sembilan] more quickly than scheduled, that is by the middle of March 1988.

He said: "The program for completing the principal construction work will be finished by the end of February, and it is expected that it will be ready for use by the beginning of March."

He said that with the completion of the refinery, the program to refine more local crude oil will be increased in accordance with demand in Malaysia. The refinery can handle about 90,000 tons of crude oil daily.

05170

Trade Minister Declares Investment Climate Still Good

42130094b Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in
Malay 8 Feb 88 p 4

[Text] Penang, 7 February—The country is still stable, although at this time it is facing technical, legal problems within UMNO [United Malay National Organization]. This was stated by Rafidah Aziz, the minister of trade and industry.

She said that Malaysia still has a "healthy" investment and tourism climate, and this essential truth is not a matter for doubt by anyone. In connection with that she called on women political leaders to play an important role in clarifying the situation to the people and to foreign visitors.

Speaking at the opening session of a meeting of leaders of the organization, Malaysian Women, which was held on 7 February at a Penang hotel, Rafidah expressed the thought that by playing such a role women will be able to counterbalance negative reports from a small group of the foreign mass media who deliberately have taken this opportunity to weaken the country's political stability.

She reminded women's leaders from all parties to act in a lawful way so that the problem which is being experienced by UMNO will not be repeated again in this country. She said: "I don't want to see the problem presently being experienced by UMNO to be repeated in any party. In the future this matter should serve as an example."

Rafidah hoped that members of all political parties, and particularly those associated with the government, would encourage a genuine effort to develop the nation and the country. She also thinks that a party program which is truly and exclusively aimed at serving its own interest could cause what is happening within UMNO at the present time. She declared that, although UMNO has been declared to be an illegal party, women's leaders within the country will continue to carry on their efforts in a spirit of responsibility toward the country.

Regarding the meeting held on 7 February, she discussed abolishing drug abuse, improving the laws benefiting women, and developing unity.

05170

Electronics Industry: Shift Towards Consumer, Industrial Products

42000302 Kuala Lumpur *BUSINESS TIMES*
7 Mar 88 p 1

[Article by Joe Chan]

[Text] The Industrial Master Plan Task force will actively promote the development of a more balanced electronics industry, emphasising the shift towards greater production of consumer and industrial electronic products.

It will also actively seek to increase the linkages of the industry with local and higher value-added industries and to increase local participation without prejudice towards foreign investment.

This is because the electronics industry in Malaysia is principally confined to the assembly and testing of semiconductors, using imported technology and material inputs, according to the IMP Task Force Annual Report 1986/87.

"Recognising the limitation of the sector and the need to strengthen its structure, the basic thrust of the electronics industry would be to diversify into the production of a wider range of electronic products as well as to create more effective forward and backward linkages," it recommended.

In line with this basic thrust, the following strategies have been adopted:

- To accelerate the growth of the non-semiconductor components, consumer and industrial electronics sub-sectors;
- To foster the development of supplier and support industries for the electronics industry;
- To encourage production of value-added products through greater investment in research and development activities, and improving design capabilities within the sector;
- To increase local participation in the electronics industry by encouraging joint ventures between local and foreign investors as well as wholly local-owned firms; and
- To improve and upgrade the technology used in existing semi-conductor assembly and test activities in order to increase productivity.

The IMP Task Force noted that the existence of a number of multinational semiconductor manufacturers in Malaysia has made the country one of the world's largest semiconductor exporters. Total exports exceeded the IMP target by 44.6 per cent in 1986 to reach \$6,979 million.

However, the structure of the electronics industry continued to remain skewed towards semiconductor production. Semiconductor exports alone amounted to \$5,329 million out of the total.

Additionally, Malaysia continued to import a substantial proportion of the required material inputs, amounting to \$5,563 million in 1986 compared with the IMP target of \$3,219 million.

The task force recommended that the Government promote greater linkages in the electronics industry by encouraging multinational companies to source their material input requirements locally and to establish new projects to create the desired backward and forward integration within the industry.

Some strategies were adopted to enhance Malaysian technological capability of greater R and D activities, skill upgrading and product development to reduce the dependence on foreign designs.

The task force also urged local manufacturers to take full advantage of the services offered by the Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics Systems (Mimos) to translate product ideas into working prototypes.

Closer interaction between television receivers manufacturers and Mimos to develop better product design and circuitry for example, will enhance the former's competitiveness and enable them to expand into the export market, said the task force.

/12913

Formulation of New Mining Policy Announced

42000302b Kuala Lumpur *BUSINESS TIMES*
9 Mar 88 p 1

[Article by Sharif Haron]

[Text] A national mineral policy is being drawn up with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Primary Industries Minister Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik revealed yesterday.

He said the policy will outline both the fiscal and financial incentives offered by the Government to facilitate and encourage development of the mineral industry in the country.

"It will represent a complete overhaul of the whole mining policy in the country. If previously we have been concentrating on tin mining only, the new policy will

also emphasise the development of other products in the mineral industry," he told reporters after opening a conference on mining in Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Dr Lim said a number of UNDP experts are in the country talking to industry people and those in the relevant departments.

The services of the UNDP were engaged over a year ago to design a programme to develop the mineral potential in line with the country's overall development plan, leading to the formulation of a national mineral policy. But the recommendations will have to go through the National Land Council and the State Government before a mineral policy can be adopted.

Asian Mining'88

Datuk Dr Lim also said that Malaysia is fully supportive of research and development (R and D) efforts, not only in mineral production but also in mineral consumption, especially tin.

The country's continued membership in and financial support for such organisations as the International Tin Research Institute in England and the South-East Asia Tin Research and Development Centre represents such a commitment, he said.

In the context, he said, R and D must go hand in hand with personnel development not only for R and D per se, but also in terms of the ability to use the technology developed or made available.

/12913

Editorial Optimistic About 'Year of Dragon' 1988 42050016c Kuala Lumpur NANYANG SIANG PAU in Chinese 16 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Greet the New Challenges of the Year of the Dragon"]

[Text] The Year of the Rabbit has quietly departed, replaced boldly and proudly by the Year of the Dragon. The past year, it may be said, was filled with perversities, and the turbulences in the national economy and political situation perplexed and worried the people a lot. Now as we bid farewell to the old and welcome to the new, we wish the Year of the Dragon would bring us good fortunes, propitious omens and new hopes.

Looking back at the year just past, although our economy showed some signs of revival, this year's economic outlook is still unclear due to the aftermath of the crash of the New York Stock Exchange last October. The mounting, serious unemployment problem still needs to be energetically overcome. In social matters, the dispute about appointments of non-Mandarin-speaking teachers to high administrative positions in Chinese primary schools led to the arrest of a number of Chinese civic and

political leaders on the strength of the Internal Security Act; the detainees have not been set free even now. The storm over cooperative societies is still causing repercussions, and some Chinese business and political leaders were even thrown into jail due to breach of trust. They paid a high price for their moral slackness, which in turn produced a crisis of trust. Apart from sighing with relief, it seems now is the appropriate time for us to reexamine our views on the traditional morality and value concept of the ethnic-Chinese community in preparation for the opening of a new life ahead of us. The factional fight within the United Malays National Organization [UMNO] has led the judiciary to decide that the UMNO is no longer a legal society. Not only is this ruling a serious blow to UMNO's organization and membership, it has also produced a definite effect on the political situation in the country.

Nevertheless, although the current situation is not so good as one wishes, we are still optimistic about the prospect in the coming years, as long as we are willing to overcome all objective obstacles and difficulties with confidence and perseverance.

On the side of the economy, our performance last year was better than previously anticipated. The stock market storm in October did not produce an ill effect on Malaysia's export trade. Generally speaking, prices of primary products went up and the volume of our exports also increased to \$25 billion Malaysian Dollars last year, a hike of at least \$4 billion Malaysian Dollars in comparison with the 1986 figure. Though affected by the unsettling factors in the world economy and U.S. economy, our country's economic growth rate this year is still expected to reach 3 percent, which is better than the previous 2 years. However, our economic outlook will mainly hinge on the performance of foreign and domestic investments. To attract more foreign capital and to consolidate the confidence among domestic investors, it is essential that political stability throughout the country must be maintained. While the problem of unemployment remains thorny, it can be gradually solved along with the upturn of our economy and the improvement in the manufacturing industries and export business.

In the political field, judging by the prevailing situation, the clearing up of the problem caused by the UMNO crisis is merely a matter of time. The decision by the High Court has not affected the position of the government, and the administration is going on as usual. As more and more quarters are backing the prime minister, his position has been correspondingly consolidated. With its current leadership making the best use of the situation, it may be expected that the restoration of the problem of UMNO's position will be resolved in a clear-cut manner.

Spring is here again and everything looks fresh and gay. The significance of a new year is that the spirit should be more important than the realities of life. It brings joy to everybody, and a spiritual uplift. Although we must not

ignore our spring festival tradition and custom, let us remember not to overdo our festivities in the face of economic downturn, otherwise our minds and pocket-books would be taxed. Although we experienced many unpleasant things in the year just past, we need not brood on them. What is past is past, let us think of the future. We may make a summing-up of what and how we performed in the past, but let us start all over again at the advent of the new year so the coming year will bring us new hopes.

During this spring festival period, it is hoped that our friendly ethnic compatriots will get a share of the joy and happiness enjoyed by the Chinese community and, availing themselves of this opportunity, foster their mutual friendship and sentiments in order to further our national unity.

At the advent of the New Spring, let us enhance our vigor and face the new year's challenges with greater confidence and courage. As we enter the Year of the Dragon, we wish for our country prosperity and peace and for our people that they live in happiness.

9300/6091

DAP Official Asks Sabah To Repatriate Refugees, Foreign Workers

42050017b Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 6 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] (Feng Jie Rong), acting treasurer of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], urged Sabah Chief Minister Pairin Kitingan to keep his electioneering promise by repatriating refugees and foreign workers.

Mr Feng pointed out that after the Sabah state authorities conducted a census last April, it is discovered that within a short span of 10 months, a total of 250,000 foreign workers and refugees are living in Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Kudat, not counting those found in Tawau, Kota Kinabalu and Sempurna. During the same period, 31,500 of them acquired identity cards.

He requested the state government to clarify to the people why and on what conditions these 31,500 foreign workers and refugees managed to get their identification cards.

Mr Feng pointed out that in the past, the problem of refugees were jointly handled by the Sabah state authorities and the local UN Refugees Repatriation Office. However, this UN office has been closed, and all refugee problems were transferred to the Sabah Chief Minister's Department. Consequently, Datuk Pairin Kitingan should have ample data to proclaim the true figure of refugees remaining in Sabah and to take effective measures for their repatriation to their countries of origin or third countries.

He said: "According to available material, I estimate that more than 250,000 foreign workers and refugees are in Sabah state, at least between 400,000 and 500,000 people. Not only do they rob our Sabah residents of job opportunities, but also are bringing grave problems affecting our state's public order."

9300/12223

Editorial Views University of Malaysia Chinese-Language Department

42050016g Kuala Lumpur *NANYANG SIANG PAU* in Chinese 28 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] In July last year, controversy erupted in the Chinese-language and Indian-language departments of the University of Malaysia about whether the medium of teaching for elective courses should or should not be conducted in the Malay language. The dispute became the talk of the town and caused great repercussions, which finally led to the problem being referred to the cabinet for further study and to the prime minister for full-powers handling. Although no development has been heard or known since, the problem has enhanced Chinese society's interest in the University of Malaysia's Chinese-language department. This newspaper has published a series of relevant articles in recent days so that our readers may have a better understanding of the problem.

Leaving aside for the moment the question of medium of teaching for elective courses, the university's Chinese department has existed for 25 years and is the only one of its kind in all our higher institutions. This department has made indelible contributions in nurturing Chinese-language talents and promoting Chinese culture. Based on the strong guarantees by the government's highest authorities and the soon-to-retire vice chancellor of the University of Malaysia, Prof Ungku Azis, any reform in the Chinese-language department will not result in a substantive change to its character; it will continue to play its role as usual. Under such a major premise, there shouldn't be any doubt that this Chinese-language department will continue to get the concern and support of the Chinese community.

When this department was founded, it enjoyed the enthusiastic backing, financial and otherwise, from Chinese society, as well as the continual careful planning by Chinese scholars and experts here and abroad, before it expanded to its present scope. Since its founding, its curriculum has been based on the following three principles: 1) to promote the application of Chinese language and literature; 2) to cultivate and train the appreciation of Chinese literature and art; and 3) to study Chinese culture and, through it, to appreciate its contributions to the world in general and to the Southeast Asian region in particular. If these principles can be really reflected in

the teaching of courses and can be put into practice by the graduates all these years, then the study and propagation of Chinese culture is bound to get instant results.

In reality, the 600 to 700 graduates in the past 24 years have all made contributions to Chinese society, irrespective of the fields they have served in, especially in various language centers, and in national and independent middle schools. Moreover, these graduates have become the main source for qualified Chinese teachers in secondary schools. In his talk with our reporter, Prof Ungku Azis appealed to Chinese-education enthusiasts to contribute money to the University of Malaysia's Chinese-language department to push its scholarly and research activities, such as translating Chinese classical works—Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*, for example—into Malay and publishing their Malay editions, establishing a research foundation, conducting seminars, etc. These proposals and plans are worthy of serious consideration by the Chinese community.

Professor Azis also suggested that Chinese society donate money to the university's Chinese-language department to invite more Chinese professors and lecturers who, in their spare time, can devote their energy to do research work advantageous to the Chinese community. As a matter of fact, wealthy people and big corporations in foreign countries have a common practice of contributing large funds to universities' research plans, and one of the lecturer chairs in the University of Malaysia's Malay-language department was set up through contributions derived from the Malay Teachers Union. Therefore, Professor Azis' proposal has its basis and reasoning.

Before appealing to Chinese society to contribute money and manpower to the university's Chinese-language department, the university authorities—apart from assuring its future—should also convince the Chinese people that they are attaching equal importance to the Chinese-language department as they are to other departments. We believe that the Chinese community will not ignore the university authorities' reasonable appeal and request, particularly for the Chinese-language department which has made contributions to Chinese education and culture.

The ethnic Chinese people in our country have always had the fine tradition of supporting education and nurturing talents. They have always been generous in helping Chinese primary and secondary schools and aiding the government's educational activities. If members of Chinese society are not clear about the university's Chinese-language department and its contributions, this may be attributed to insufficient contacts between Chinese society and the university's Chinese-language department itself. It is essential for the department to take the initiative of reestablishing its communication with the Chinese people to avoid mutual misunderstanding or indifference. In order to prevent further unfavorable blows after undergoing so many trials and hardships, which would affect the future of this largest Chinese language center in our universities, it is urgently necessary that this Chinese-language department and Chinese society establish double-track contacts.

9300/6091

Columnist Hits Shultz, Lauds Marcos on Anti-Insurgency

42000311d Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
16 Mar 88 p 6

[Editorial by Jesus Bigornia]

[Text] "Little White Father George Shultz" speaks in Washington "with a forked tongue." Testifying before the House of Representatives subcommittee on foreign operations, the secretary of state stated the situation in the Philippines is incomparably stronger and better than under deposed President Marcos. Nevertheless, he admitted that the Cory government still faces "immense problems" needing American support.

However much his successors will vilify the former strongman, they cannot say that he failed in his sworn duty to squelch rebellions in any form over almost two decades of incumbency. With guile and bribe, Marcos inveigled most of the leaders of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front, its chairman, former University of the Philippines Prof Nur Misuari found himself almost alone but for his staff in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and a ragtag unit holed up in Maimbung, Sulu.

Constant pressure by units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines kept the communist-led New People's Army on the run. Throughout his rule, the communist rebels could not call any definite territory their own. Proselytizing and recruiting campaigns of communist cadres were cramped by surprise military operations. Capture and detention of top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines, including former chairman Jose Maria Sison and NPA ex-chief Bernabe Buscayno, a.k.a. Kumander Dante, vitiated for a time the leaders of the subversive movement and set back their plans for government takeover. During the Marcos regime, military as well as other sources credited the communist rebellion with not more than 15,000 armed guerrillas with double that figure in supporters.

If Mr Shultz has been reading Philippine newspapers lately, he would be alarmed over the capabilities of the NPA and its mass base, the National Democratic Front. Killer squads, known as Sparrows, kill law enforcement personnel, even members of the military, at will on streets and public places in Metro Manila. The CPP/NPA/NDF have set up shadow governments in broad areas of the countryside. Almost every day, Filipinos read about NPA guerrillas attacking not only military posts but also churches and health centers.

The secretary of state has, therefore, been misleading the United States Congress and the American people about the real state of affairs in this country. He talks about aid and the Filipino people see very little of such assistance. Instead of painting a rosy, if inaccurate, picture of the Philippines, he should tell the unvarnished truth. If the American people still feel any affection for the Filipino people, let them come to the relief of an afflicted people.

/9604

MALAYA Reports Church-Backed Opposition to U.S. Bases

42000311f Quezon City MALAYA in English
20 Mar 88 p 5

[Text] Though still smarting from Jaime Cardinal Sin's accusation that some segments of the church have been "infiltrated by communists" because of their active involvement in various people's organizations, members of the non-traditional church—priests, bishops, laymen—have once again challenged members of the church community to take up the "moral duty" of Christians to work for the permanent removal of all U.S. military facilities in the country.

A forum series and mass actions launched by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and the United Church of Christ of the Philippines (UCCP) on U.S. bases the past week have been attracting local church workers from the Catholic church and the different Protestant denominations. Judging from the result of the church-sponsored activities, an increasing number in the Christian community has chosen to take a stand on the very political issue of the U.S. bases in the Philippines.

Among the moral justifications for the religious leaders' position on the bases are the presence of nuclear weapons in the American bases and their social costs—prostitution, criminality and drug trafficking.

Bishop Antonino Nepomuceno of the Ecumenical Bishops Forum (EBF), in a sharp criticism of the superpowers, branded the arms race as a form of "international superpower terrorism."

"Today, the destructive potential of the nuclear powers threatens the sovereignty of God over the world He has brought into being. They can destroy His work," said Bp Nepomuceno.

Rev Elmo Manapat of UCCP, a Protestant denomination, said in one of the fora that allowing the bases to stay "works against the national interest of the Filipino people" and is therefore "against any known Christian principle."

Rev Al Abainza of the NCCP, on the other hand, said that "the Church can no longer afford to preside over liturgical celebrations of life while failing to be with our people in the face of wanton death and destruction."

While the retention or withdrawal of the U.S. bases is an issue beyond the spiritual realm of the Church, anti-bases proponents from the religious community are quick to cite the moral duty of Christians to defend peace.

The attitude of the religious sector campaigning for the withdrawal of the U.S. bases in the Philippines cannot be considered entirely out of synch with the traditional church, inside and outside of the Philippines.

In the United States, where the nuclear weapons allegedly stored in the bases come from, a U.S. Bishops Pastoral Letter on War and Peace stated that "questions of war and peace have a profound moral dimension which responsible Christians cannot ignore... True, these questions also have a political dimension because they are embedded in public policy. But the fact that they are also political is no excuse for denying the Church's obligation to provide its members with the help they need in forming consciences... We reject, therefore, criticisms of the Church's concern with these issues on the ground that it should not become involved in politics."

The same Bishops Pastoral Letter also noted the threat of a nuclear war between nations and peoples as an example of "living in a sinful situation."

Even Pope John Paul II, in his speech upon his return from a pilgrimage to Hiroshima, said: "In the past, it was possible to destroy a village, a town, a region, even a country. Now, it is the whole planet that has come under threat."

The active involvement of the non-traditional church in the campaign against the bases, however, is likely to come under fire. The bases issue, having been reduced to an issue between those who want the bases to stay as "champions of democracy" and those who want the bases out as "communists," is certain to divide the Church.

Bp Nepomuceno himself, in one of his speeches where he correlated the sad state of human rights and peace with U.S. intervention in the Philippines, was taken to task and given a long sermon by a foreign priest. The visiting priest wrote that "the Kremlin would love your talk, coming from a Catholic bishop."

In the Philippines, where the Church hierarchy and the non-traditional church have been at odds on political matters, and where the Church wields a significant influence, the issue of the bases is certain to once more threaten the uneasy unity between the Church hierarchy and the Church's more activist components.

Philippine News and Features

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MALAYA: Cardinal Sin 'Scotched' Official Church Stance on 'Non-Issue' of Bases
42000311g *Quezon City MALAYA (Supplement) in English* 20 Mar 88 p 4

[Excerpt] Jaime Cardinal Sin: Writing off the bases as a non-issue, the Archbishop of Manila complained to visiting U.S. senators and congressmen led by Rep

Stephen Solarz about the "meager amount of (base) rental." He also scotched the possible issuance of an official Church stance on the bases.

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TIMES Editorial Supports Cojuangco Land Reform 'Twist'
42000311e *Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English*
20 Mar 88 p 4

[Text] Land reform has taken a new twist with the call made by Tarlac Rep Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the outspoken brother of the President, for the consolidation of small landholdings into what he calls economic-size farms. In effect, Cojuangco, considered to be the most influential legislator because of his closeness to President Aquino, has taken a position diametrically opposed to that of his sister, who has been pushing for the outright breaking up and distribution of farmlands.

Congress itself has rallied behind the President, although there are still many kinks to be ironed out in the administration's so-called Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, with the current debate focused on the size of the land to be distributed to its beneficiaries, mostly landless tillers of the soil. To show her sincerity and earnestness in the implementation of CARP, Mrs Aquino has even ordered that her family's vast landed estate in Tarlac, the Hacienda Luisita, be also placed under the program—a great sacrifice on her part, considering that the sugar plantation has been the main source of her family's wealth.

In this context, it is possible that critics of the President will interpret her brother's stance as an attempt to frustrate CARP in relation to the family's landholdings. Which would be unfair since the congressman's main concern, as he explained it at the press conference, was to ensure the success of whatever land reform program the government would carry out. And the best way to avoid failure is to learn from the lessons of experience of other countries worldwide.

Arguably, Cojuangco has a point in calling for the consolidation of small landholdings to make them more economically viable. This does not, essentially, run counter to the concept of land reform, which is to take from those who have more and give to those who have none at all. Since modern agriculture has many components to make any piece of land truly productive, such as irrigation and the use of fertilizer, it will be costly indeed to cultivate small farms. Pooling the resources of small landowners to cut down expenses and boost production is the essence of the Cojuangco scheme. In sum, farming cooperatives, although he did not exactly say this.

Perhaps, the Cojuangco formula could help resolve the controversy surrounding CARP. Even now, there is a rising wave of unrest triggered by the government's insistence on breaking up landed estates and distributing

these to landless farmers. Landlords in Mindanao, which looms as the country's main supplier of food, and elsewhere in the country are threatening to take up arms to defend their property. From all indications theirs are no empty threats.

There is urgent need, therefore, for the government to take fresh stock of its options to avert civil strife over land reform. Distributing land to the landless should not be the end of the program, as mistakenly interpreted by the communists whose models—the collective farms of Stalin and the communes of Mao—have proved to be disastrous to their respective countries. Making farming a viable industry should be the ultimate aim.

By removing the confiscatory nature of land reform and by putting emphasis on its economic viability, the government can go a long way in making the entire program more palatable to the people. For one thing, it can make the communist promise to seize the lands of the rich and give these away to the poor look less attractive—and even quite empty and inhuman.

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BULLETIN Lauds Corporate Example of Land Reform

42000311c Manila *MANILA BULLETIN* in English
16 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] What Meralco Foundation did to its land and to its tillers may be set up as the model to be emulated by corporations in similar circumstances and other owners of large estates subjected by law to agrarian reform.

Meralco distributed a portion of the property to about 60 farmers and will transfer title to about 250 more soon. Meralco's program set aside a portion of the estate for communal use. It also will undertake the teaching of skills to the farmers and their families.

The circumstances under which Meralco undertook the program should, however, be noted. Meralco is in the business of distributing electricity. It is not an agricultural company and, therefore, its approach to land reform may not be suitable to other estates. But what Meralco is doing simply points up the possible good that owners of large estate can do to particular people and to the country, which today is extremely agitated over agrarian reform.

Agrarian reform should not be regarded as an arrangement that has to be enforced by the government. More than this, it is an idea whose time has come and must be done, but always in accordance with constitutional processes.

Those in the private sector who have done what Meralco did recognizes the need to help the tillers of the soil and acknowledges the corporation's entrepreneurial ingenuity in making a profit elsewhere.

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Army Officer Blames Politicians for Anti-Insurgency Faults

42000311b Manila *MANILA BULLETIN* in English
16 Mar 88 pp 1, 18

[Text] An Army combat officer blamed some politicians yesterday for the difficulties the government is now encountering in its anti-insurgency campaign.

The officer, Col Bernabe Orena, commander of the 1/5 Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division stationed in Cagayan Valley, testified before a House committee looking into the complaints of Cagayan Rep Tito Dupaya, whose wife Teresa ran in the gubernatorial race but lost to resigned Constabulary Col Rodolfo Aguinaldo in the recent local elections.

Orena substituted for Brig Gen Felix Brawner, commanding general of the Northern Luzon Command (Norcom) who was unable to attend the inquiry being conducted by the House committee headed by Rep Pedro P. Romualdo (Camiguin).

In his testimony, Orena said "unwarranted meddling" by certain politicians in military affairs has hamstrung the Armed Forces in its war against the communist New People's Army (NPA) and the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

His statement surprised several congressmen in attendance.

Orena had been asked to shed light on the election complaints of Dupaya whose wife lost to Aguinaldo allegedly because of terrorism employed by Aguinaldo allegedly with the connivance of the military in the area.

During the election campaign, the Dupayas and the Tuzons complained that Aguinaldo delivered his campaign speeches atop an armored vehicle and was accompanied by fully armed security men.

Colonel Orena told the committee: "I do not understand why I am being investigated by the committee when I should be up in Cagayan with my men who are in the thick of a battle with the communist insurgents."

A member of class 1961 of the Philippine Military Academy, Orena denied Dupaya's charges that the military, particularly his command, helped Aguinaldo in winning the elections through harassment and terrorism.

He asked the members of the committee to go to Cagayan and conduct the investigation there so that they can feel the sentiment of the people in the province.

Orena charged that the constant interference by certain officials has seriously hampered the activities of the military and contributed greatly to the low level of morale of the soldiers in the front line.

On the recent local elections, Orena told the committee that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Manila has in fact commended the Army's Northern Luzon Command under General Brawner for the peaceful and orderly election in Cagayan province.

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Misuari Hits President's In-Law on Mindanao 'Meddling'

42000311a Manila MR. & MS. in English
12 Apr 88 pp 15, 16

[Text] In a recent ABS-CBN Channel 2 TV broadcast, TV reporter Rafael Ongpin was seen and heard interviewing (overseas) MNLF chieftain Nur Misuari over the OIC rejection of his organization's membership bid. Misuari, in passing, gave the suggested "to take that lady out of Mindanao affairs as she was likely to cause a civil war by her constant meddling." It was intimated that the lady referred to was Tingting Cojuangco, sister-in-law of President Aquino. Nur Misuari mentioned that the Muslim barter traders were being bled dry through P500,000 shake-downs on every Singapore barter trade trip. On the same TV broadcast, commentator Noli de Castro announced that the lady alluded to, Tingting Cojuangco, had called in to say that what Ongpin had aired was absolutely false and that she was not the lady involved, and further that she would sue Ongpin and the station for libel. There are times when it does not pay to be the wife of a powerful politician and a close relative of the President at the same time, and this is one of those times. This is probably the third time exotic Tingting has been linked to unsavory dealings and what could be very unfortunate and sad is that she actually may have no financial gains or profit to come by in this alleged transaction. Sorry for the lady—but it's just one of those things, the price to pay for being "well-meaning" and over-helpful.

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Vice President Denies Ties to Gang, Guns

42000307a Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 11 Mar 88 pp 1, 8

[Article by Edmund Valen: "Boy Luz not Our Man—Doy"]

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel yesterday said he has asked "precisely" the military to investigate the case, to make it impartial and to know the authenticity of the documents earlier presented by an alleged leader of a notorious gang as coming from his (Laurel's) office.

Laurel, in an official statement released by OVP official spokesman Angelito Banayo, also added that he requested AFP vice chief of staff Maj. Gen. Eduardo Ermita to conduct the investigation "considering that alleged acts of his security officers are under question."

The statement also reiterated that "there is no Jaime Boy Luz or Boy Luz in the plantilla of the OVP, nor has there been in the pst."

Laurel's reaction was in response to an INQUIRER expose based on documents that Luz was indeed issued a memorandum receipt (MR) and mission order (MO) from the office of the vice president, signed by his chief security officer Lt. Col. Baylon Platon.

The MO numbered 19-92-87 dated Dec. 18, 1987, and the MR with formal form number 32(A) for the Uzi machine pistol, the .45 cal. pistol, and the ammunition for the two firearms showed that the authorized "confidential agent" was Jaime Boy Luz, confirming previous allegation of his legal counsel Antonio Abaya that he (Luz) was not guilty of illegal possession of firearms charged to him by the military.

Luz, alleged leader of the Sagitsit gang, was nabbed by the agents of the PC Criminal Investigation Service last Feb. 4 following a week-long surveillance at his house at Jerusalem St., Multinational Village, Paranaque.

Found in his possession were the government-issued firearms and an Ultimax assault rifle found in his ar's compartment which documents showed was also issued by Laurel's office to a certain Soriano. When apprehended by the CIS agents, his mission order was still in effect as it was due to expire on Feb. 28.

Platon, the signatory of the MO and MR, had earlier denied Luz was connected with the OVP.

As this developed, additional documents gathered by the INQUIRER revealed erasures and alterations in the recommendation written supposedly by Paranaque Fiscal Leodegario Quilatan, who was relieved from handling the Boy Luz case.

The words "for file" were superceded by "for further investigation", and other words were erased and altered to suit the release of Luz, the documents showed.

Castro has earlier told the INQUIRER that the decision to release Luz without bail was a fait accompli since the matter was decided before it reached his office.

Quilatan refused to comment when contacted by the INQUIRER, saying he wanted to have a "moratorium" on the said inimical publicity.

The Sagitsit gang has been tagged my military intelligence agents for a series of crimes in Metro Manila, including auto theft, armed robbery, gun-running and gun-for-hire.

The gang was also believed to have in its "hit list" prominent personalities, including presidential brother and Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco, Makati mayor Jejomar Binay and Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Antonio Sotelo.

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Rival Charges Governor-Elect Aguinaldo With Extortion

42000307b *Quezon City MALAYA in English*
14 Mar 88 p 7

[Text] Rep. Tito M. Dupaya (Lakas ng Bansa, Cagayan) and Rep. Domingo Tuzon (NP, Cagayan) yesterday charged former Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo with extorting money from timber concessionaires and logging operators in the province.

Dupaya and Tuzon said Aguinaldo summoned the logging operators March 5 to a conference at the Oriental Sawmill compound at Magapit, Lallo, Cagayan and demanded "protection money" from them in exchange for securing their machinery and men from New People's Army attacks.

Aguinaldo could not be reached immediately for comment.

The two congressmen said the former rebel soldier, whose proclamation as governor-elect of Cagayan has been stopped by the Comelec because of charges of fraud and terrorism, has imposed a fixed "tribute" of P2,250 a month for each guard deployed as security for the men of the logging operators.

Aguinaldo reportedly told the loggers that he would assign five of his men to guard every bulldozer being used in the operations.

Dupaya also denounced what he called the "illegal and unauthorized use" by Aguinaldo of armored tanks and trucks belonging to the 15th Infantry Battalion stationed in Cagayan.

Tuzon said he would produce witnesses who would testify to the fraud and terrorism employed by Aguinaldo and the 15th Infantry Battalion soldiers in the last local elections.

The two Cagayan congressmen said they would document the abuses, including the maltreatment and killings, allegedly committed by the armed men of Aguinaldo during and after the recent polls.

Aguinaldo and some officers of the military units assigned to Cagayan are scheduled to appear before the House defense committee this week to answer the charges of the two congressmen.

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MIDWEEK Interviews New Bayan Chief on Impact, Criticism of Efforts

42000309a *Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English* 2 Mar 88 pp 3-7

[Interview with Zenaida Uy, secretary-general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) by Benjamin Pimentel, Jr.: "The Most Meaningful Risks"]

[Text] Zenaida Uy was elected secretary-general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) last December. She replaced Leandro Alejandro, the federation's young sec-gen, who was gunned down in front of Bayan headquarters last September. At 47, Mrs. Uy is 20 years older than Lean Alejandro. She is also not as well-known—or controversial—as the late progressive youth leader.

But this doesn't bother her. A professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, Mrs. Uy has been teaching since she was 18.

It was only when she tried out the role of student, rather than instructor, that Mrs. Uy found a new meaning in her being a teacher. Ironically, her education came, not from distinguished members of academe, but from the young men and women to whom she had lectured so much about society and how to change it.

"My students then were also very active in the student movement. This was right after the First Quarter Storm. Some of them came to see me after class telling me that, while they appreciate my attempts at presenting social change in the Philippines, there are new approaches which might be considered. That was how I got to understand the neo-colonial and semi-feudal nature of Philippine society. I owe it to my students."

Soon Mrs. Uy was joining and speaking before peasant, worker and youth demonstrations. The streets had become a classroom in which she herself was a student. When Bayan was formed in 1985, she became chairperson of the Cebu chapter.

As Bayan-Cebu chair, she realized that trying to change society was more dangerous than simply talking about it in the classroom. She and her family were constantly harassed by the military and vigilantes. Posters in different parts of Cebu City called her a Communist, with cracks like: "Zeny Uy, Bumalik ka na sa Tsina!" ["Zeny Uy, Go back to China."]

Still, she accepted the post of secretary-general of one of the most controversial organizations in the country, expanding her classroom further to include, not just the little island of Cebu, but the 7,000 in the archipelago. It was, she says, a natural decision for her to make.

She recalls what Fr. Rudy Romano, another Cebuano who took the "road less traveled by"—and paid a dear price for it—once told her, "If we are crossing a river, we have already crossed 40 percent of the river."

"There is no turning back," Zeny Uy affirms, "or I might get carried away by the heavy current."

[Question] Bayan suffered a loss in the death of Lean Alejandro last year. Also, Bayan seems to have less impact today. Can you comment on these developments?

[Answer] There is no denying that there has been a synchronized attack, a spate of killings against Bayan leaders. But despite these assaults, Bayan has never been deterred from continuing its struggle to educate, to inform and to rally the people towards achieving the much-needed nationalist and democratic changes in Philippine society. Yes, it's true there have been losses in terms of leaders. We lost Rolando Olalia, our first president. We lost Lean Alejandro, our secretary-general. We have also lost Bayan leaders in the regions. But the struggle to change Philippine society, to make it more humane and more progressive continues. It is common knowledge that Bayan does not rely only on individual leaders. The sectors, the regions, the territories and the islands have their own dynamism.

[Question] In what form do these physical assaults take?

[Answer] They are against leaders and organizations themselves. This has become more pronounced under the Aquino government because of the concerted effort from the vigilantes and the military

[Question] How effective are the vigilantes?

[Answer] To a certain extent, it really succeeded in sowing fear and terror as shown in the litany of killings reported and documented. We see the break up of communities and families. For instance, in one big typical Filipino family, one brother may be a leader of the farmers organization and another brother may be a member of the Alsa Masa or the Kaddre. There is also the dissolution of communities shown in the phenomena of mass evacuations. This is pathetic and very alarming.

[Question] Can you cite specific cases of these kinds of incidents?

[Answer] In Cebu, for instance, one of the best organized urban poor communities is Alaska, Mambaling. It was even featured in a United Nations newspaper because it was known for its determination to fight for the land they

have been occupying for so many years. But then the concerted attacks by the military and the Tadtad on the area, most of the original settlers have left. This is very sad because the President herself motivated the populace to organize at all levels. Yet, you see attacks on organized communities, in the guise of anti-communism and counter-insurgency.

[Question] How effective are campaigns to whip up an anti-communist hysteria in the country?

[Answer] Some of our organizations were greatly affected, especially when they see their leaders killed or when they just disappear. But approaches using anti-communist hysteria are bound to self-destruct. People will begin to realize that the thrust of the anti-communist groups do not have concrete basis. For instance, to attack an area, or liquidate families, or to kill a specific persons simply because they or he belongs to an organized group and therefore are sympathizers of the Communists—this practice eventually becomes unpopular. People begin to see that there is no basis for killing people this way. Their problems are not solved. They realize that they still wallow in poverty. In so far as the farmers are concerned, they still don't own the land they're tilling. The workers still don't receive a family wage. At the start, using anti-communism may work. But in due time people will be able to distinguish between concrete understandable problems versus something that is hypothetical. The anti-communist approach is used as an instrument, not only to discourage people from joining organizations, but to stop people's organizations. This may work for a few months because of the element of fear and terror. But not for long. Issues will become clearer and people will realize what it really is.

[Question] It has been affirmed that the popularity of President Corazon Aquino is waning. But the cause-oriented movement like Bayan seem also unable to draw people in. Many people, apparently, would rather stay unaligned. Thus, some sort of apathy has set in. What can you say about this?

[Answer] To a certain extent, this is true. But this can be explained. After so many years of Marcos rule, anyone who replaced him would be very popular. There is no doubt about that. But then popularity, especially if it has no basis that is beneficial to the people, eventually wanes just like what is happening now. Another factor would be the fact that Bayan itself did not have a very clear analysis of the new dispensation when it first took over. There was a feeling of giving the new government the benefit of the doubt, although we knew that there are structural and systemic basis for the whole social order. But we did not pinpoint at once the true nature of the government. If you recall, Bayan's position was critical support. But now, during the last National Council meeting, there is the consensus that we should have been more articulate in describing the whole social structure. We missed that part. We got carried away by critically

supporting the government. Now, the nature of the government is very clear to us. We consider it a great responsibility to reveal this to our people.

[Question] Are you saying that Bayan should have taken an oppositionist stance right after the takeover of Mrs. Aquino?

[Answer] Well, the dynamics then was of course different. The picture was definitely not that clear. But we have to be always reminded of the reality of the social structure wherein the landed few dominate the majority who are propertyless. So if there was a mistake, I think it would be more along these lines. There was, of course, a concerted effort to ease out Bayan from the mainstream of Philippine politics. The reason for this is also clear. The position of Bayan, its program of action, its alternative vision of a new society, threaten those who benefit from the existing social order. Of course, they would not want this alternative to be popularized and be understood by the populace. That's why they are moving heaven and earth to stop Bayan. They even want to push us underground.

[Question] There is also the view that Bayan was not sincere or serious about really critically supporting the Aquino government.

[Answer] Well, I'd like to state first that from the very beginning, Bayan always meant what it said. We were serious about critical support. During the drafting of the new Constitution, we presented a nationalist agenda. During the peace talks, we also helped in propagating a sincere appreciation of the agenda for peace. But we found no sincere effort on the part of Government to consider the nationalist and democratic agenda. But in so far as pushing for that, it was an all-out effort to present the basic ills of society and why these are perpetrated. Even the peasant sector did its part. They sought dialogues with the President. But she somehow did not have time for the farmers.

So, what others say is not true. We always mean what we say. The best sons and daughters of our sectors have really gone to the extent of sacrificing even their own lives. Because these efforts of changing and transforming Philippine society will be inherited by our children and their children. So why should we not be sincere about it.

[Question] With the growth in strength of the Right and the cynicism that has set in among many of our people, could this not be a very good atmosphere for a fascist resurgence? Could not a skeptical population disillusioned with both the President and the cause-oriented movement become more attracted to authoritarian rule something like what happened under Marcos or in Germany under Hitler or Italy under Mussolini?

[Answer] Well, the conditions during the Marcos period and the conditions now are different. There is no denying the fact that the internationalist blocs has grown in

terms of number. These are qualitative improvements. While it is true that perhaps the average person in the street could easily be swayed to the Right, there's no denying the fact that we have had a qualitative change in the perspective, in the world view, among the people. Given the opportunity to make accurate and scientific information open to them, I think the people will eventually distinguish between what is real and concrete and what is hypothetical. Of course, the problem we have is not that our efforts to disseminate these information do not reach the average person. There is even a concerted effort against us in this. For instance, in a press conference, what came out in the newspaper was a complete distortion of what we said.

[Question] So couldn't this control of media by certain groups be used to develop the Rightist point of view?

[Answer] Yes, precisely. but on the level of the people's experiences, they see the chasm between what they read and what they go through. Like they keep on hearing about peace, human rights, justice and a better life but then they experience the contrary. So they are presented by two opposite pictures and the people will eventually know which one is true. On the other side of course, we also see the efforts of foreign powers. CIA money is practically flowing in to further confuse the people. But we also have aggressive education campaigns to block these deceptions. If we cannot do this through conventional media, then we will have to do it through the alternative press. We may have to start with neighborhood dialogues, then expand it further. Those who are serious of filling the need to really inform the people about the essential features of the government will find a way of carrying this out. So the fear that you mentioned may not be that real. There is even a growing awareness of civil liberties among the middle force. The National Movement for Civil Liberties was recently formed. Besides, the consolidation of this government has not been completed. The last stage was supposed to be the local elections. But even then, a number of the administration candidates did not have landslide victories or even lost. Then this government also exposed part of its color by embracing even the warlords of the past regime. The people will reject the repetition of the same setup under Marcos. So they themselves will not allow that to happen. We must have faith in our people.

[Question] You have spoken about the need to reach out and educate the people. But many find the forms and methods you use as either too blunt or too vague for the ordinary citizens to understand. For instance, the formulation "US-Aquino Regime" could hardly be understood by anybody who sees it on the streamers and posters of a Bayan rally.

[Answer] Yes, we accept that criticism. We recognize the need for new styles of work. Suggestions are pouring in. The usual marches like the weekly demonstrations under Marcos may no longer be possible or even effective now. Adjustments have to be made. We are in the process of

doing that. Mass actions will be highly selective. There will be new forms. The emphasis now is on education and information. Before, we focused on mass actions. But now we are going back to the basics that means zeroing in on our analysis of Philippine society and our alternative vision. These were secondary at the height of the Marcos dictatorship because we concentrated on mass actions.

The average persons should not see just two opposite poles. It should not be a choice between the Aquino government and the CPP-NPA. No. We have to reemphasize the position of Bayan which seeks to achieve change through a non-armed struggle. It's also a question of method. If you speak of the CPP-NPA, for example, their method is clear. But there has been less appreciation of Bayan's methodology.

[Question] What new forms have been considered?

[Answer] Well, we have been conducting intensive seminars on various issues like the US Bases and the Value Added Tax. We hope to get feedback on how these issues can be popularized. There have also been suggestions of dramatic approaches in making the Bases issue easily understood. Pamphlets, comics, etc.

We have to make Bayan's position clear. The Right is trying to project Bayan as simply an organization out there to oppose the government without presenting an alternative. So we will try to counter this. We will present our analysis of Philippine society and also our alternative vision. We will also make it clear that our method is non-armed with people's organizations as the core of this movement for change. We emphasize that through concerted people's effort, Philippine society can be changed.

The initial feedbacks have been very heart-warming. We had regional councils activated in different regions. This is an indication that there is a greater understanding about our position.

[Question] How big is Bayan now?

[Answer] As I said, some of our chapters had been dormant or inactive. But there has not been a single case of withdrawal. We even had the formal and official affiliation of nationwide organizations like the Alliance of Concerned Teachers and Gabriela. You see, in the past two years, these two groups were with us but not officially. This year, they formalized their membership.

In some regions, there has been a marked decrease in numerical expression of the organization. But the structure is there although this may not be seen in open mass actions. But we expect to grow in number this year.

[Question] How do you plan to counter physical assaults against your ranks?

[Answer] Well, one is not to make it easy for hostile elements to kill our members. [Laughs.] In case of illegal arrests, then we report these immediately. Of course there have been cases of kidnappings or salvagings. Wala kaming magawa pag nangyari iyon. [We can't do anything when that happens.] Like Fr. Rudy Romano. There have been no news about him now. But in general, we try to keep ourselves safe but still continue working. Some sectors have put up their own defense units. But that is their own initiative.

[Question] You replaced Lean Alejandro as secretary-general of Bayan. That position seems to be the most sensitive, even vulnerable, in the cause-oriented movement.

[Answer] Yes, they seem to be getting the secretaries-general all over.

[Question] Have you experienced any threats to your life?

[Answer] Well, even before assuming this position, I was already being threatened as Bayan chairperson for Cebu. My house was raided twice. That was a traumatic experience for my children. That was in June 23 and August 28, during the coup, last year. While the coup was going on, a combined military-vigilante group in 11 vehicles went to my house. Up to now, there are surveillance teams watching me and my family. Threats are aired over the radio. I have not experienced any threats in Manila. Maybe it's because they don't know me. I just try to make it difficult for them to follow me. When I go to my office at the University of San Carlos, I do not loiter around the campus. That makes it difficult for them to follow me. I don't think they would try to take me in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. I don't think they would dare do that.

I teach Sociology and Anthropology for undergrad and graduate school.

[Question] Will you be moving here or will you still be based in Cebu?

[Answer] I still have to finish my school term up to March. Then I will probably go on leave so I can render full service to Bayan. You see after teaching Sociology all these years, lecturing on social change, Philippine society, etc., one reaches a point in one's lifetime when a decision must be made. All these theories and approaches to social change must somehow find expression in actual life. So I intend to be an actual participant just like what I had been doing in the past, but this time on a national scale. This for me is challenging and self-fulfilling, although, I know it is also very risky.

[Question] How did you get involved in political movements?

[Answer] I once watched a play entitled "Higaang Marmol" shown here at UP. I was attending a convention then on "The Poverty of Sociology and the Sociology of Poverty." It was a vivid portrayal of urban poverty wherein they showed people living in cemeteries. This was contrasted with the lifestyle of a few. That really disturbed me. When my students suggested new approaches to understanding Philippine society, a dynamic dialogue started. That led me to more serious study. I was exposed to more readings and more discussions. What happened to me was like throwing a stone into a pool and creating ripples. It was just one play that disturbed me and eventually led to a series of discoveries. Social change can never be done in the classroom. You have to go through a process.

[Question] How has this involvement affected your family life?

[Answer] Practically my whole family are involved, not just to watch me make speeches, but also to join the farmers and workers as they march, as they eat and live. I started teaching when I was only 18. I taught nothing but Sociology. Now I am teaching a course on Social Order. Ang dami-dami ko nang naturo tungkol sa change. [I have taught a lot concerning change.] But nothing happened. [Laughs.] Then I saw the missing component and that is praxis: to be really active, to be right there where the action is.

I have six children. I am, of course, concerned for them. These assaults on Bayan leaders is not just directed against the leaders but also the family members. But in our family, we discuss these things. My children ask me, "What did you mean about that statement in that rally? What was that all about?" The discussion takes place right at the heart of our home. So they are also part of my commitment. They also find the need to join groups and participate in activities. They are also afraid of the consequences. But they know it has to be done.

Experience has also taught my children the meaning of fascism. It's not theoretical to them. My five-year-old kid saw how the military barged into our house, destroyed the main door, shouted at us. My second son told the soldiers, "Identify yourselves. That's what the law says." They saw how their father was beaten up and their mother was inhumanely treated.

During a rally right after the abduction of Fr. Romano, there was this student who was being pulled by military and policemen. They were holding his feet and arms, dragging him away from the other rallyists. I was then with the negotiating panel. When I saw this I rushed to the aid of that student. I embraced him so the military could not take him into the military camp. When I saw his face, I found out that the student was my own son. I started biting the legs of the military men so they would let him go. We got free and the other members of the negotiating panel came to help us and prevented the military from taking us.

I do not try to ram my beliefs and commitment down the throats of my children. They in their own time and dynamics learn about it. I just provide materials and if they are interested they read them. I don't force them to read or accept my beliefs. But I make them feel that I am open to discuss with them on anything. From my own experience, a commitment doesn't become meaningful unless I appreciated a cause on my own.

Until now our front door is broken. My son asked me, "What have you done that they treat you this way?" It's very traumatic for my children. They grow up in a house and all of a sudden they have to leave it because it is no longer safe to stay there. Even the children take turns looking out the window to find out if there are suspicious persons outside. My five-year-old boy would just report, "There are four people behind the mango tree. They are carrying something." He gets scared and cannot sleep.

[Question] Are you not yourself afraid?

[Answer] I know there are risks. But I think I told you the first time we met that life is, after all, a series of risk-taking. Once you step out of your house, you are already exposed to danger. Knowing that, I have decided to take the most meaningful risk: to serve the people, not just in theory and in the classrooms, but in actually being part of a nationwide people's movement.

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Election Official Says Postponement Geared To Defeat Rebel Candidates

42000307c Manila THE MANILA TIMES in English
12 Mar 88 pp 1, 6

[Article by Agadel Guerrero]

[Text] The postponement of barangay elections scheduled in May to November would lead to the defeat of rebel-backed candidates, a Commission on Elections official said yesterday.

Commissioner Alfredo Abueg, Jr. said the resetting of the barangay polls would enable the military to "neutralize the influence of insurgents" on the candidates and the elections.

Abueg recalled that in the recent local elections, some candidates backed by the New People's Army rebels got elected.

"The rescheduling would enable the poll body to prepare for a clean, honest, orderly and credible elections during which the electorate could cast their votes without fear of or harassment from terrorist forces," he added.

In a related development, the Comelec was scheduled to hear on Monday the petition of Naga Dimaporo for the annulment of the proclamation of Lanao del Sur Gov. Saidamen Pangarungan, according to Commissioner Dario Rama.

Dimaporo had asked the poll body to declare in contempt the provincial board of canvassers, including Pangarungan, for having proclaimed the latter as winner despite the Comelec order to suspend the pronouncement.

The Comelec will also hear next week the petition of Benjamin Abella against the proclamation of Amelia Larrazabal as governor-elect of Southern Leyte.

The hearing was scheduled after the Supreme Court remanded the case to the Comelec for it to decide whether or not to sustain the suspension of the proclamation of Larrazabal.

/06662

Northern Luzon Residents Call 'Forum', Urge NPA To Explain Executions

42000309b Quezon city *WE FORUM in English*
4-10 Mar 88 p 16

[Article by E.R. Alcantara: "Sagada Debate: Is There Justice in NPA Trials and Executions?"]

[Text] Sagada, Mt. Province—There has been much talk about executions by the New People's Army (NPA) of military men, local criminals and even government officials. While government calls these "terrorism", the NPA justifies the killings on the grounds that the victims had blood debts, criminal records and committed "crimes against the people". The NPA has admitted that there were excesses committed in the past, and has promised to rectify these and impose disciplinary action against erring guerrillas. But the primary question is still whether the guerrilla army's "revolutionary justice" is sanctioned by the communities it operates in.

The recent case of an NPA execution of a local criminal in this town may help provide an answer to this question.

Sagada, 9-hours' travel from the capital city of Baguio, is a favored tourist destination and a principal marijuana source. With a small population, the town has been part of the NPA guerrilla zone in Mt. Province for a decade.

Last Feb. 10, more than 500 Bontocs, including municipal officials, gathered in an open forum with guerrilla cadres of the clandestine Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF) at the Ambasing Elementary School. The forum was called by the people for the CPDF guerrillas

to explain the recent execution of Wilbur "Philcag" Lizardo Jr. (CPDF, an affiliate of the National Democratic Front, has its own army, which, however, remains under NPA command.)

"Philcag", 20, part-owner of the Lizardo Bus Lines plying Sagada-Baguio and a resident of Ambasing, a Sagada barrio (village), was known in the community, said barrio folk, as an unrepentant "bad element" who was allegedly involved in several thefts, mauling incidents, and at least one murder.

During the Feb. 10 forum, "Ka (comrade) Wange" of CPDF said that victims and witnesses from Ambasing reported "Philcag" had 23 cases of robbery and four cases of mauling. Philcag, according to Ka Wange, was also implicated in the killing of one Eddie Dena in April 1986. His excessive drinking always led to brawls which his gambling corrupted other youth, the CPDF spokesperson said.

In one incident, an Ambasing resident revealed that Philcag stabbed a rival gang-member, chasing the latter to one Tomas' house. The ensuing commotion caused Tomas' pregnant wife to have a miscarriage.

Sept. 20 last year, a mass meeting to discuss Philcag's offenses was called by Ambasing barangay officials. The police, who were invited, did not attend. Philcag, on the other hand, slipped out of the meeting. The meeting resolved that Philcag should pay his victims for items he allegedly stole.

Philcag apparently did not comply. Last Jan. 31, Philcag stabbed one Ka Nardo, a CPDF cadre, but failed to kill him. The following day, an order to execute Philcag was issued by the CPDF Mt. Province Operational Command. On February 2, Philcag was seized by a CPDF-NPA team and executed at the Saganda cemetery.

During the open forum, elementary school teachers who on Feb. 6 had questioned the execution argued that only the government through its courts should punish criminals.

Another CPDF spokesperson argued that a person's deeds form the basis for justice and that the people themselves had testified against Philcag. Other CPDF cadres at the forum also said the NPA did not execute persons indiscriminately. "Only after several consultations with the people and thorough investigation," they claimed "do we decide whether an execution is necessary."

A municipal official said that collective responsibility in the fight against criminality must indeed be shared in the barangay (village). "The people must testify as witnesses in court if they want to punish a criminal," the municipal official said. "We should attend mass meetings when

these are called since we can cooperate together to implement the law at the barangay level and perhaps even settle things peacefully."

Another town official agreed that due process was observed in Philcag's case and that it was not as if the NPA had acted at its own discretion. A former Sagada mayor also said, "we all knew Philcag and so we understand why this (his execution) eventually had to

happen. Besides, he added, "why should we stand up for a notorious fellow and make a hero out of him?"

(In a barrio meeting a day before the open forum, Philcag's relatives although pained by his death admitted that the incident was a lesson to other people committing crimes against the community.)

/06662

1988-1989 Budget Analyzed

42000304 Kuala Lumpur *BUSINESS TIMES* in
English 8 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] True to the prediction of most financial analysts in Singapore, the 1988-89 budget unveiled last Friday by Singapore's Finance Minister Dr Richard Hu contained few surprises. Apart from two important changes, the budget remains basically intact in its present policy. Smokers have to pay heavily for indulging in the habit which the Government discourages and employers may have to think twice before hiring foreign workers. There were no major tax concessions for the individual or the corporate sector, although the economy performed impressively in 1987, the GDP growing by 8.8 percent against just 1.8 percent in 1986. But those who are familiar with Singapore's economic policy know how tightly the Government runs its public finances to keep down its budget deficit. Besides, 1987 was the first full year of domestic recovery and the Government is understandably anxious to consolidate its gains by continuing a policy of financial restraint. Another reason is that last year's growth was fuelled by high consumer spending which exerted an upward pressure on prices of goods and services. The Government fears that pumping in more money at a time when inflation is rising will overheat the economy and undermine growth.

Thus, despite the argument that Singapore should take bold steps to strengthen its competitiveness in the international market in view of the recent action by the United States to remove the city-state from the Generalised System of Preferences, the Government remains unconvinced of such a need. At the same time, as if to assure businessmen that the Government is sympathetic to their plight, it hints at further cost-cutting measures should the economy falter this year—both official and independent forecasts expect a slower growth rate of 5-6 percent in 1988. Some see this accommodative stance as

a sweetener to the prospect of a general election this year. But this is not the first time that the Government has gone to great lengths in exercising caution and instilling in Singaporeans a sense of self-discipline and pragmatism. It has, unfailingly, reminded Singaporean businessmen of the virtue of belt-tightening and they must not take for granted the cost-cutting measures the Government undertook in 1985 to assist them to compete in the global markets. These measures have evidently paid off, as is reflected in the productivity and growth figures in the manufacturing sector, but the Government seems to have bigger plans.

Consider the increase in the levy on foreign workers from \$140 to \$170 a month despite the fact that Singapore is suffering from labour shortage (the levies on foreign construction workers and domestic servants remain unchanged at S\$200 and S\$120 respectively). Seen in the long-term perspective, the move appears to be very much in line with the Government's long-stated objective to reduce its dependence on foreign labour and to steer the economy towards high-technology and financial services. Apart from the fact that employers in the manufacturing and services sector have to bear the higher cost burden, the move also means that jobs may not be that easily offered in future. It is in effect a way to effect restructuring of Singapore industry by controlling the use of its most important resource—manpower. This target for Singapore is shared by the younger generation of leaders. Addressing a university audience recently, Trade and Industry Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who is also Second Minister for Defence (Services), said the service sectors, including finance and banking, transport and communications and other services like computer software, will power Singapore's growth into the 21st century.

/9604

POLITICAL

Chronology, 15 October-14 December 1987
42000306 Hanoi VIETNAM COURIER in English
Jan, Feb 88

[Jan 88 p 32]

[Text]

October

15. Hanoi: The State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam confers the Ho Chi Minh Order on the Central Committee of the Vietnam Writers' and Artists' Union on its 40th founding anniversary and Independence Orders, First Class, on the Writers' Association, the Plastic Arts Association, the Musicians' Association, and the Stage Artists' Association on their 30th founding anniversaries.

A Soviet Government delegation led by L.A. Voronin, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Material and Technical Supply ends its visit to Vietnam.

16. Vientiane: Signing of a protocol delimiting Lao-Vietnamese boundaries on frontier rivers and streams.

19-20. Hanoi: Vietnam and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) hold a conference on bilateral cooperation for 1988-91 in health care, education, mother and child welfare, water supply, and environmental hygiene.

20-25. Quang Nam-Da Nang: Participating in the 1987 national swimming championships are swimmers from 20 provinces and cities. Eight new national records are set.

The Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Binh Tri Thien teams win the greatest numbers of medals.

20-29. A delegation of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Control Commission, led by its Vice-Chairman Werner Muller, member of the Central Committee, pays a visit to Vietnam.

21. Phnom Penh: Signing of a protocol on Kampuchea-Vietnam cooperation in education for 1987.

23-25. Hanoi: Participating in the 1987 national athletic championships are 180 athletes in 19 teams. Three national records in the women's shot put, 100m-sprint and long jump are set. The Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Phu Khanh teams win the largest numbers of medals.

25-29. A Soviet Government delegation led by V.S. Gusev, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers pays a visit to Vietnam. On this occasion, many documents on Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation are signed.

28-29. Hanoi: Holding of the Second Congress of the Vietnam Buddhist Church (see Panorama, page 3).

28 Oct-1 Nov. A Vietnamese Government delegation led by Nguyen Canh Dinh, Minister of Water Conservancy and President of the Vietnam Sub-Committee in the Vietnam-Iraq Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, visits Iraq.

28 Oct-5 Nov. A delegation of the Czechoslovak People's Control Commission led by Frantisek Ondrich, Cabinet Minister and President of the Commission, visits Vietnam.

29. Hanoi: Opening of the USSR National Exhibition.

31 Oct-8 Nov. A Vietnamese cultural delegation led by Tran Van Phac, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Minister of Culture, visits Indonesia.

31 Oct-10 Nov. A Vietnamese Party and Government delegation led by Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, attends in Moscow the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

31. A Vietnamese water-puppet troupe ends its visit and performances in Paris, begun on 10 October.

November

2-3. Hanoi: Meeting in a regular session, the SRV State Council approves a decree on the people's security forces and discusses a draft law on foreign investments.

4. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam confers the Gold Star Order on Sanjo Nosaka, Honorary Chairman of the Japanese Communist Party Central Committee, for his outstanding contributions to building and promoting solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the Communist Parties and peoples of Vietnam and Japan.

6. Hanoi: Holding of a grand meeting to mark the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Hanoi: Inauguration of a testing centre at the Saint Paul Hospital in Hanoi after 10 months of construction. The centre, built with the assistance of the Secours Populaire Francais (SPF), is equipped with modern apparatuses.

7. After 11 months of construction at the Thai Nguyen Steel Complex a rotating furnace for the smelting of porous iron with a yearly capacity of 22,000 tons is commissioned.

9-11. Hanoi: Holding of the sixth session of the Vietnamese-French Inter-Governmental Commission for Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. A document on cultural, scientific and technical cooperation for 1988-89 is signed.

10-17. A delegation of the Communist Party of Argentina led by General Secretary Athos Fava pays a friendship visit to Vietnam.

13. Hanoi: Signing of a protocol on goods exchange and payment between Vietnam and Hungary in 1988.

14-19. A Vietnamese National Assembly delegation led by Le Quang Dao, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, President of the National Assembly, and Vice-President of the State Council pays an official friendship visit to Poland.

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[Text]

15. People in the whole country start buying government bonds for national construction in 1987-1988.

15-21. A delegation of the SRV Government led by Vo Van Kiet, Vice-Chairman of the council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Planning Commission, pays an official visit to the Republic of Indonesia.

16-17. The SRV State Council adopts regulations on the organization and activities of the people's councils at all echelons, decides to convene the second session of the eighth National Assembly some time in the second half of December, 1987.

17. Moscow: Signing of a protocol on goods exchange and payments between Vietnam and the Soviet Union for 1988.

20-21. Hanoi: The seventh Congress of the Vietnam Lawyers' Association is attended by 134 delegates representing more than 10,000 members in nine provinces and municipalities and 33 branches. The Congress adopts a new Statute of the Vietnam Lawyers' Association and elects a 45-member Central Executive Committee headed by Phan Anh.

21-23. A high-level delegation of the General Statistics Department of the Mongolian People's Republic led by D. Zagabandan, alternate member of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, Cabinet Minister, and Chairman of the Central Statistics Department visits Vietnam.

24-26. A delegation of the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic led by Istvan Sarlos, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee and Chairman of the National Assembly, pays an official friendship visit to Vietnam.

25-29. A delegation of the communist Party of Vietnam led by Mai Chi Tho, Political Bureau member of the Communist party of Vietnam Central Committee attends the 18th Congress of the Japanese Communist Party.

26-28. Hanoi: Holding of the eighth national gymnastics championships. (see Panorama, page 3).

27-30. Hanoi: Fifth National Congress of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. (see Panorama, page 1).

29. Kampuchea: Ceremonies are held to bid farewell to Combat Group 94 of the Vietnamese army volunteers in Phnom Penh and to Combat Group 99 in the port city of Kompong Som.

30. Vientiane: Signing of a protocol on goods exchange and payments between Vietnam and Laos for 1988.

30 Nov.-3 Dec. The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, James C. Ingram, visits Vietnam.

30 Nov.-6 Dec. A Vietnamese motion picture delegation attends the seventh Hawaii international film festival held in Honolulu (USA).

December

1-3. Ho Chi Minh City: The People's Supreme Court of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam tries Hoang Co Minh and his confederates for high treason and banditry. Their counter-revolutionary organization, headed by Hoang Co Minh, vice-admiral of the former Saigon puppet regime, was set up in Southern California in 1980. It called itself "National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam" and was fostered by the US imperialists and supported by reactionaries in Thai ruling circles who permitted them to set up bases in Thailand. Their infiltration into Vietnam through Laos on 7 July 1987 was intercepted by the Lao Army and vietnamese volunteers. They suffered over 100 casualties including Hoang Co Minh. Seventy others were captured.

2-9. A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam, led by Dong Si Nguyen, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vice-Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, attends the 26th Congress of the French Communist Party.

3. Hanoi: A grand meeting is held to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam-GDR Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation (4 December 1977-4 December 1987).

4-12. Days of Soviet Culture in Vietnam (see article on page 12) with the participation of a Soviet Government delegation led by V.G. Zakharov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Minister of Culture.

5. The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam issues a resolution on renovating and upgrading the leadership and management of work in literature, art and culture, developing their creative powers, and taking them to a higher stage of development.

7-14. A delegation of the Polish United Workers' Party, led by Lieutenant General Czeslaw Kisozak, Political Bureau member of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee and Minister of the Interior, pays a friendship visit to Vietnam.

8-17. The 4th plenum of the 6th CPV Central Committee is held in Hanoi. It reviews the Party's leadership of the implementation of the Resolutions of the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and of the 2nd plenum of the 6th CPV Central Committee during the past year, and lays down the orientation and tasks for socio-economic development in 1988-1990 and in 1988.

10. Hanoi: Nguyen Van Linh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee receives D.I. Kachin, Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam. The CPV General Secretary hails the results obtained at the recent Soviet-American summit and voices the total support of the Vietnamese people for the peace initiatives taken by M.S. Gorbachev.

+Hanoi: Vietnamese Party and Government leaders receive Hun Sen, Political Bureau member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and Chairman of the council of Ministers of Kampuchea, during his stopover in Hanoi on his way home after meeting Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Paris.

CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh sets great store by the talk between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk and expresses the hope that the talk will continue and will lead to a peaceful solution to the Kampuchea issue.

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ECONOMIC

New Soviet Equipment for Nam Dinh Textile Mill
42000314c Hanoi VIETNAM COURIER in English
Feb 88 p 4

[Article by Lan Ngoc]

[Text] With the help of Soviet experts, the Nam Dinh Textile Mill has assembled and put into operation 25 STB weaving-loom.

These looms use metal clips instead of wooden shuttles and can weave broad-loom fabrics of various kinds and colours. They have a low noise level and show three times the capacity of current types of looms with shuttles used in Vietnam.

The Nam Dinh mill is the first in Vietnam to use Soviet STB looms, which will allow it to turn out one million more metres of coloured checkered fabrics a year.

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Friendship, Cooperation With GDR Discussed
42000314d Hanoi VIETNAM COURIER in English
Feb 88 p 11

[Excerpts] Cooperation relations between the two countries have developed in depth in conformity with the practical situation and have yielded good results. Formerly bound only by short-term cooperation plans, the two countries have now reached agreements on strategic cooperation for social and economic development in each country.

Every year, the vietnamese people receive from the GDR tens of millions of marks worth of goods in aid and a large amount of materials, equipment and machines. The GDR has also helped Vietnam improve and build anew many economic projects such as the Vinh Spinning Mill, Vinh City, the Job-training school in Pho Yen, the Dreyling hydroelectric power plant, the Ba Vi Orthopedics Centre and more than one hundred small workshops, thus contributing to the building of socialism in our country. New forms of economic cooperation as in planting and processing coffee, rubber, coconut oil, and pepper, in producing consumer goods, and in providing workforce have benefited both sides. Each year, thousands of Vietnamese scientists, technicians and workers study and work in the GDR and vietnamese and german specialists in different branches have made study tours in each other's countries.

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